

RESOLUTION NO. 18- 279

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY GOAL FOR THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville adopted a resolution to increase the Municipal Carbon Footprint reduction goal to 4% annually on April 12, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville adopted a resolution Supporting a Clean Energy Economy on October 22, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville adopted a resolution for a Community Clean Energy Policy Framework on October 27, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville adopted a resolution establishing a joint City, County and Utility Energy Innovation Task Force for the purpose of researching, prioritizing, recommending and implementing recommendations to create energy efficiency, demand side management and renewable energy opportunities to reduce energy use in Buncombe County on March 22, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville adopted a resolution supporting a state goal of 100% renewable energy by 2050, increased protection for standing forests and the creation of green jobs on June 13, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville adopted a resolution re-affirming the City's commitment to reducing climate pollution in alignment with Council's vision, and, continued support of the principles of the Paris Agreement and the participation of the U.S.A. as a party to the Paris Agreement on June 13, 2017; and

WHEREAS, Asheville has lowered its energy demand and reduced its carbon emissions by 31% since 2008, is already known as Climate City, and is on its way to being a leader in energy conservation, which is the first step in achieving a goal of transitioning to 100% renewable energy, and

WHEREAS, in 2016 Mayor Manheimer signed onto the Paris Climate Agreement and the Mayors for 100% clean energy; and

WHEREAS, there continue to be opportunities to save Asheville taxpayers money and reduce the need for outside sources of energy by improving the energy efficiency of City buildings and updating the vehicle fleet policy; and

WHEREAS, climate change fueled by increasing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere increases the frequency and severity of extreme weather events, including torrential rain leading to floods and mudslides, along with extended droughts and resulting wildfires that Asheville is

projected to experience in greater frequency based on the City's Climate Resilience Assessment; and

WHEREAS, the costs to the City of Asheville to remedy damage done to buildings and infrastructure caused by the increase in extreme weather tend to be greater than the cost of preventative measures;

WHEREAS, the industrial scale use of forests for fuel is not a carbon neutral form of energy, and will contribute to the rate of climate change and severity of its impacts; and

WHEREAS, renewable energy technologies create jobs and yield opportunities for local business development and entrepreneurship;

WHEREAS, human health and safety are negatively affected by climate change with impacts on air quality and respiratory disease, heat related deaths and illness, mental health, thunderstorm deaths and injuries, hurricane deaths and injuries, water and food borne illnesses, flood deaths and injuries, vector borne diseases, tornado deaths and injuries, and cancer, transitioning to renewable energy will greatly decrease these public health risks and their concomitant cost; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has committed to incorporating equity and inclusion into its operations through the hiring of an Equity and Inclusion Manager and by integrating these concepts into its 2018 Comprehensive Plan and City Council 2036 Vision; and

WHEREAS, United Nations Sustainable Development Goal Seven seeks to "ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all"; and

WHEREAS, the City acknowledges that to achieve the energy transition goals established in this resolution it may need to implement or update existing policies and programs and will have to appropriate additional funding to municipal energy conservation, carbon reduction, and renewable energy generation; and

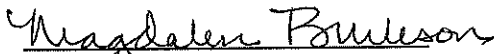
WHEREAS, timelines, milestones, and metrics are critical to focusing the City on developing and executing a plan to achieve the energy transition goals established in this resolution.

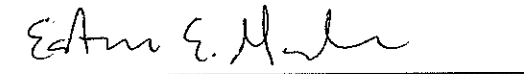
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

1. The City of Asheville shall transition municipal operations from fossil-fueled energy to 100% renewable energy by December 31, 2030.
2. The Office of Sustainability shall develop a renewable energy plan to achieve these goals by December 31, 2019, and Fiscal Year 2020 EITF funds may be used to develop the plan. The plan shall:

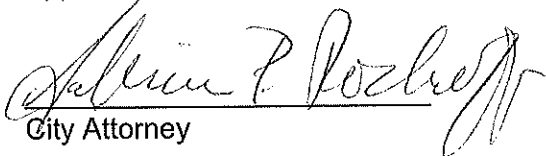
- a. prioritize the selection and implementation of projects that reduce the City's municipal energy consumption and are economically responsible, socially just, and technologically feasible;
 - b. fully support Buncombe County's community-wide 100% renewable energy goal;
 - c. ensure that the concerns of historically marginalized communities are incorporated and the benefits of this transition are shared by all communities throughout Asheville;
 - d. identify staffing and annual funding appropriations needed to achieve the City's renewable energy goals;
 - e. prioritize hiring and utilizing local businesses and members of marginalized communities to the extent permitted by law; and
 - f. be incorporated into the City's Climate Action Plan.
3. The Office's annual Sustainability Management Report provided to City Council shall indicate whether:
 - a. the City is on track to achieve the renewable energy transition goals established in this resolution, and
 - b. adequate funding has been allocated by City Council to fund the required renewable energy transition projects.
 4. The City's goals and plan shall be re-evaluated by the Sustainability Advisory Committee on Energy and the Environment, the Office of Sustainability, and City Council every five years.

Read, approved and adopted this the 23rd day of October, 2018.


City Clerk


Mayor

Approved as to form:


City Attorney