

RESOLUTION ____

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF STATE COLLEGE, PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTING THE MUNICIPALITY TO DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING A STRATEGY TO ACHIEVE NET ZERO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND 100 PERCENT RENEWABLE ENERGY NO LATER THAN 2050

WHEREAS, the Borough of State College has already set an example by achieving most of the GHG, energy conservation, and renewable energy goals set out in Resolution 944, declaring State College Borough a "Climate Protection Community", initiating a series of municipal practices compatible with GHG reduction and renewable energy use, and establishing our Sustainability committee, passed by Borough Council and signed by Mayor Bill Welch on August 27, 2007;" and

WHEREAS, the State College Borough Home Rule Charter, Article IX, Section 1105, "Right to a Sustainable Future" states that, "All residents in State College Borough possess a right to a sustainable energy future, which includes, but is not limited to, the development, production, and use of energy from renewable fuel sources;" and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Article 1, Section 27 states that, "Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustees of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people;" and

WHEREAS, the transition to 100 percent renewable energy will promote employment opportunities and sustainable growth in the Borough of State College, the Centre Region, Centre County, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, facilitate local control and ownership over energy options, and bring tangible benefits to low-income residents and others who have historically been disadvantaged by fossil fuel-based energy systems; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania contributes approximately 1% of global GHG emissions, which, according to the Commonwealth's Third Pennsylvania Climate Impacts Assessment Report, is affecting agriculture, energy, human health, infrastructure, recreation, water quality, forests, and other ecosystems in Pennsylvania, and human health and ecological systems around the world; and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 1.5 C, the U.S. Fourth National Climate Assessment, and the 14th Global Risk Report of the World Economic Forum all conclude that climate disruption is a present danger to human health, the environment, and the economy; and

WHEREAS, the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris agreed to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and to pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels in order to prevent catastrophic harm to people and ecological systems on which life depends; and

WHEREAS, both the magnitude and speed needed to achieve these reductions necessary to prevent dangerous human-induced climate disruption urgently requires all local government entities to cooperate with other levels of government, the private sector, educational institutions, agriculture, and others to rapidly develop strategies to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to net zero to achieve the Paris Agreement's warming limit goals; and

WHEREAS, any delay in reducing GHG emissions makes the Paris Agreement's warming limit goals much more difficult, as existing GHG emissions levels are rapidly reducing the shrinking carbon budgets that must constrain total global GHG emissions to achieve said goals; and

WHEREAS, the impact of global climate disruption falls disproportionately on the poor, indigenous people, people of color, and future generations; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of local government entities and private and public sector organizations around the world have committed to begin planning to reduce their GHG emissions to net zero as quickly as possible but no later than 2050 or, at minimum, achieve 100% non-fossil fuel generated electricity by that date; and

WHEREAS, over 100 U.S. municipalities have promised to transition to 100 percent renewable energy by 2050 at the latest; and

WHEREAS, green building practices and standards have been established, and the cost of non-fossil fuel generated energy including solar, wind, and geothermal power have fallen to the point that the replacement of fossil-fuel generated energy with renewable energy is reaching price parity with non-renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, universities in Pennsylvania, including the Pennsylvania State University provide jobs that research, support, and educate Pennsylvania's renewable energy industry and conduct international, national, state-level, and local climate assessments and planning assistance; and

WHEREAS, green building and renewable energy industries employ thousands of Pennsylvanians;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HERE RESOLVED:

1. The Borough of State College shall a) Achieve net zero GHG emissions and 100 percent renewable energy as quickly as feasible, but no later than 2050, and immediately begin to develop a strategy to complete this goal, and b) commit to achieving the GHG emissions reductions target determined by said strategy and by the date identified therein; and
2. Will participate in related regulatory proceedings and State legislation to advocate for rules and policies that support the Borough's energy goals; and
3. Lead by example to rapidly pursue these goals in a manner that is transparent, fair, and economically responsible; and
4. Engage peer governments, non-governmental organizations, businesses, and universities to raise awareness and identify courses of action to reduce the impacts and embrace the opportunities created by human-induced climate disruption to Pennsylvania and places around the world.
5. That "clean, renewable energy" to achieve the stated goals includes energy produced from solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, and other technologies not currently known. Resources will be evaluated for carbon impact, public health, and environment justice implications.

RESOLVED this _ day of ____ of 2019

By

Evan Myers, President
Borough Council

By

Donald M. Hahn, Mayor
Borough of State College

[SEAL]

ATTEST: