

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT ESTABLISHMENT
OF A 20-YEAR STRATEGIC ENERGY PLAN AND GOALS TO TRANSITION TO 100%
RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR THE CITY OF GREENSBORO

WHEREAS, NASA data shows that atmospheric carbon dioxide levels are at 411 parts per million, which is the highest they have been in 650,000 years, and 18 of the 19 warmest years on record have occurred since 2001;

WHEREAS, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released a special report in October 2018 describing the projected catastrophic impacts of continued global heating;

WHEREAS, the Governor of North Carolina issued Executive Order No. 80 on October 29, 2018, to address the climate crisis at the state level;

WHEREAS, the City of Greensboro has been committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) locally for many years, having voted in August 2007 to support the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement;

WHEREAS, the City of Greensboro created the Community Sustainability Council (CSC) in 2008 to, among other things, research, advocate, coordinate, and provide outreach for local measures to:

- a. Reduce energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions;
- b. Support sustainability goals of City departments;
- c. Identify the costs of implementation and possible funding strategies; and
- d. Monitor the progress and effectiveness of measures adopted by the Greensboro City Council;

WHEREAS, in its Sustainability Action Plan, the CSC recommended the City establish a preliminary goal of stabilizing GHG emissions at forecasted 2010 levels by the year 2020, and while the plan was accepted by the City Council in January 2011, it was not formally adopted;

WHEREAS, in March 2015, the CSC presented an update of their Greenhouse Gas Inventory that found that Greensboro's carbon footprint shrank by nearly 20 percent from 2007 to 2013, although this decrease was attributable to both favorable and unfavorable trends in the City over that period;

WHEREAS, in May 2017, Greensboro submitted for the first time a compilation of climate- and sustainability-related information to the CDP Cities program and acknowledged in that report that climate change presented a significant risk to the City;

WHEREAS, the City of Greensboro is currently pursuing certification in the US Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for Cities and Communities sustainability rating system, which includes criteria for Energy & GHG Emissions;

WHEREAS, the current Mayor of Greensboro has endorsed both the Mayors National Climate Action Agenda, and more recently, the national Mayors for 100% Agreement, which is also supported by more than 100 other mayors who want to power their communities entirely with renewable energy and transition to 100% clean energy;

WHEREAS, more than 20 localities in North Carolina and more than 130 cities across the country have adopted resolutions setting a goal to move to 100% clean, renewable energy in their communities;

WHEREAS, investing in renewable energy will improve social mobility and economic advancement and further the City of Greensboro is technological hubs, encourage the growth of the renewable industry, and create jobs here and across the state;

WHEREAS, to reach its goal, the City will need the participation of diverse stakeholders, including the business, academic, civic, and faith sectors, and communities of color, limited-income residents and environmental advocates, to steer a transparent and inclusive process for developing a strategic energy plan; and

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

That it hereby directs the City Manager to initiate preparation of a 20-year Strategic Energy Plan for the City of Greensboro, which includes the following:

- Specific steps to reduce Scope 1 and Scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions (from city operations) by 40% or more from estimated 2005 levels by 2025;
- Specific steps to reduce overall energy consumption per square foot in all city-owned buildings by 40% or more from estimated 2005 levels by 2025;
- Achievable goals for transitioning to 100% renewable energy in city operations by 2040 from any combination of on-site and off-site renewable sources, including but not limited to: solar, wind, hydroelectric, renewable energy certificates (RECs), and green power purchases;
- Recommended practices and tools to measure avoided costs and return on investment resulting from implementation of renewable energy projects;
- Recommended funding strategies for projects that advance established goals for GHG reduction, energy efficiency, and renewable energy use;
- Recommendations for incentivizing Greensboro residents and businesses to achieve similar progress on GHG reduction, energy efficiency, and renewable energy use, address cost burdens to ensure a just transition to renewable energy for all, and prioritize at-risk populations;
- A robust and inclusive program of public engagement, outreach, and education;
- Preparation of an updated GHG inventory every two years; and
- Publication of an annual progress report.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: the City Manager, or a designee, shall establish a diverse community partnership comprised of city staff, residents, corporate partners, and other interested stakeholders, to collaborate and provide guidance in developing the Strategic Energy Plan; the Strategic Energy Plan shall be submitted for review and consideration by the City Council, within one year; and officials and staff will consider all municipal decisions in light of whether they will bring the City and its residents, businesses, and institutions closer to achieving the goal of 100% renewable energy.