

Drafted by:

Deputy City Clerk

Sponsored by/Referred by:

Reading for 100/Environmental Advisory Council

RESOLUTION NO. 601-2019

Committing the City of Reading to the Development and Implementation of a Renewable Energy Plan to transition to 100% Clean and Renewable Energy

WHEREAS, climate change poses a long-term threat to the well-being of communities including the City of Reading, and more frequent extreme disruptive weather associated with the use of fossil fuels presents immediate risks; and

WHEREAS, climate change impacts will test our infrastructure, emergency and social services; impact our access to food, water, and energy supplies, and heighten disruption of services, commerce and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 United Nation Climate Change Conference in Paris resulted in a consensus of all 195 countries to limit the increase in global average temperatures to well below 2 degrees Celsius, ensure that greenhouse gas emissions will not exceed sinks (total carbon capture) by the second half of this century and become carbon neutral between 2050 and 2100; and

WHEREAS, the internationally agreed upon goals can be met based upon existing and new national, state, and local initiatives that can collectively reduce climate disruption and help minimize the impact of extreme weather on our communities; and

WHEREAS, a renewable energy initiative can produce energy cost savings for residents and local businesses while stimulating new economic activity and jobs in the City of Reading and providing life-protecting benefits for everyone; and

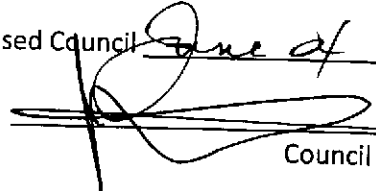
WHEREAS, on June 12, 2017, City Council included Reading among the thousands of cities across the nation pledging to "take actions and adopt policies that are designed to reduce the carbon footprint of the City of Reading and its contribution to climate change, in the collaborative spirit of the Paris Agreement to share responsibility for the safety and economic prosperity of our citizens today and for generations to come" (Resolution 55-2017).

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF READING HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

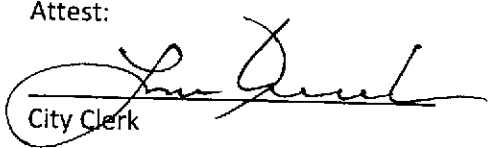
- (1) The City of Reading is joining other leading towns and cities in the national movement to transition to 100% clean and renewable energy community-wide and establishes the following renewable energy goals:
 - a. For municipal owned facilities and equipment one hundred percent (100%) clean, renewable electricity by 2030 and 100% clean, renewable energy for heat and transportation by 2040;
 - b. for Community-wide one hundred percent (100%) clean, renewable electricity supply by 2035; and

- c. Community-wide one hundred percent (100%) clean, renewable energy in all energy-use sectors including transportation by 2050.
- (2) The City of Reading will define clean, renewable energy as energy generated from renewable sources such as wind, solar, small hydro, tidal, fuel cells, and geothermal with locally produced and distributed energy prioritized whenever feasible for the many advantages it provides to the community.
- (3) To meet this goal, the City commits to the following steps in the process of its transition to clean, renewable electricity and energy for municipal uses:
- a) Quantify the City's use of electricity (including clean, renewable electricity, as defined above), natural gas, fuel oil, vehicle fuels, and other energy sources over the past three years and annually thereafter for all City-owned facilities and equipment; and
 - b) Draft, adopt, and commit to fund, Municipal Energy Master Plan to transition City facilities to 100% clean, renewable electricity by 2030 and equipment to 100% clean, renewable energy by 2040. The plan should identify multiple options to fund and achieve these goals, including estimates of the financial cost.
- (4) Furthermore, to achieve a community-wide target for 100% clean, renewable energy, the City will produce, through partnership with the Reading community, a Clean Energy Plan by July 2020. The Plan will be produced with the following considerations:
- c) Priority will be given to the lowest cost measures to meet energy needs including efficiency, weatherization, cogeneration, smart technology, other measures to reduce energy consumption, and programs that create an energy-saving culture in Reading; and
 - d) The City will seek to collaborate with surrounding communities to share best practices and seek partnerships on implementation pathways where beneficial; and
 - e) The Plan will include interim milestones, equity metrics, estimated financial impacts, financing mechanisms, and the percentage of clean, renewable energy that shall be generated locally; and
 - f) The City will ensure that the benefits of a clean, renewable energy transition include low-income and historically marginalized residents; and
 - g) The public will have opportunities and be encouraged to participate in the process for planning and implementation.

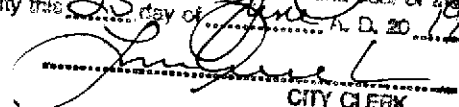
Passed Council June 14, 2019


Council President

Attest:


City Clerk

I, LINDA A. KELLEHER, City Clerk of the City of Reading, Pa., do hereby certify, that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution passed by the Council of the City of Reading, on the 14 day of June, A. D. 20 19. Witness my hand and seal of the said City this 15 day of June, A. D. 20 19.


CITY CLERK