

Ready for 100 Renewable Energy Resolution

Whitemarsh Township, Pennsylvania

READY FOR 100 RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOLUTION **A VISION FOR A 100% CLEAN RENEWABLE ENERGY FUTURE**

WHEREAS: Climate change is a global long-term threat to civilization and Earth's living ecosystems;

WHEREAS: Violent weather associated with the use of fossil fuels poses immediate risks;

WHEREAS: Climate change impacts will continue testing our infrastructure, emergency and social services; threaten our access to food, water and energy supplies; and heighten disruption of services, commerce and quality of life;

WHEREAS: The 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris resulted in a consensus among 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 the sinks (total carbon capture) by the second half of this century, and become carbon neutral between 2050 and 2100;

WHEREAS: Whitemarsh Township has demonstrated a commitment to reducing its energy usage by implementing energy efficiency improvements by upgrading traffic lights to LED throughout the township to reduce energy usage and costs and by conducting an energy audit of the municipal building to identify measures to reduce the energy use and costs associated with building operation;

WHEREAS: Whitemarsh Township is committed to be a community characterized by equality, health, safety, livability, prosperity and equity;

WHEREAS: Whitemarsh Township recognizes that it has a responsibility to future generations to take an active stand to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases within the township;

WHEREAS: The best strategy for achieving a cost effective, even cost saving, energy source transition is through collaboration with other Montgomery County energy leaders and participating in aggregated procurement contracts – Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) to regional wind and solar energy;

WHEREAS: A renewable energy initiative can produce energy cost savings for residents and local businesses while stimulating new

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economic activity and local jobs, all while simultaneously mitigating the risks from climate change for everyone;

Be it RESOLVED that:

- Whitemarsh Township will join other leading towns and cities in the national movement, to transition to 100% clean, renewable energy community-wide, and complete this transition to:
 - 100% clean, renewable electricity by 2035
 - 100% clean, renewable energy for heat and transportation by 2050
- **The Whitemarsh Township Environmental Advisory Board will provide guidance for commissioning a committee and/or contractor to draft an Energy Transition Plan for achieving these goals by March 2020 (One year from date signed) to include interim milestones, financial impacts, equity metrics, potential financing mechanisms and the percentage of renewable energy that is locally produced;**
- Clean renewable energy will be defined as carbon-free and pollution-free energy generated sustainably from renewable sources such as wind, solar, small hydro, tidal, fuel cells and geo-thermal;
- Locally produced and distributed energy is prioritized whenever feasible for the many advantages it provides to the community
- **All Whitemarsh Township stakeholders will have the opportunity and will be encouraged to participate in the planning and implementation process**
- Whitemarsh Township calls on the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to increase the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards to levels that put us on track to meet 100% renewable energy goals;
- Whitemarsh Township commits to working with other Montgomery County Municipalities and the Montgomery County Planning Commission and/or Delaware Valley Regional Valley Planning Commission to create an Energy Planner/Advocate position. The Energy Planner/Advocate will develop and implement renewable energy strategies for Montgomery County municipalities, residents, businesses and institutions. This Energy Planner/Advocate would serve for three years at an approximate cost of \$100,000 per year, to be funded by a minimum of 15 participating municipalities and available grant support.
- For their renewable energy commitment, we commend the municipalities of Springfield, Radnor, Phoenixville, West Chester, and Downingtown for being leaders in setting goals for the transition to renewable energy in their communities.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution is effective immediately upon approval.