

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF 'READY FOR 100' RENEWABLE ENERGY MOVEMENT

RESOLUTION 2020-98

WHEREAS, Climate change is a global long-term threat to civilization and Earth's living ecosystems, and is occurring at a rate unprecedented in human history, threatening to overwhelm the abilities of society and nature to adapt;

WHEREAS, Extreme weather associated with climate change poses immediate risks as it becomes more commonplace; testing our infrastructure, emergency and social services; impacting our access to food, water and energy supplies; heightening disruption of services, commerce and quality of life; impacting negatively on the quality of life and human health, increasing cost for disaster relief, restoration, and prevention; and resulting in a commensurate increase in taxes and cost of services to pay for these effects;

WHEREAS, Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the primary greenhouse gas emitted by human activities, the rate at which climate change is occurring is largely the result of the increase in the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, and combustion of fossil fuels for energy is the primary source of carbon dioxide emissions;

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°C (3.6°F), 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;

WHEREAS, The US government's November 2017 Climate Science Special Report states that "It is extremely likely that human activities, especially emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs), are the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century";

WHEREAS, In January 2019, Governor Tom Wolf issued an executive order stating, "the Commonwealth will work to achieve a 26 percent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2025 and an 80 percent reduction by 2050";

WHEREAS, currently 31 municipalities in Southeastern Pennsylvania including 12 in Montgomery County, 12 in Chester County, 5 in Delaware County, one other in Bucks County and also the city of Philadelphia, have stepped up as regional leaders and passed resolutions for 'Ready for 100', setting goals for the transition to renewable energy in their communities;

WHEREAS, Solebury Township has demonstrated a commitment to reducing its energy usage by implementing energy efficiency improvements in multiple areas, including:

- Municipal building energy efficiency improvements, resulting in reduced energy usage and costs;
- Lighting and energy system improvements at the Township Building, resulting in reduced energy usage and costs;
- Achieving nearly 40% of land in preservation;
- Initiating the replacement of the police vehicle fleet with hybrid vehicles;
- Vigorously supporting sustainable agriculture;
- Being committed to maintaining and improving our natural watersheds;
- Continuing to explore the use of solar power for the municipal facilities.

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

WHEREAS, Solebury Township recognizes that it has a responsibility to future generations to take an

active stance 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 regional energy leaders and participation in acquiring aggregated procurement contracts – Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) for regional wind and solar energy; to this end, Solebury Township also recognizes the importance of developing a close working relationship with its electric energy supplier(s) to create the most advantageous and mutually beneficial plan for integrating locally generated and renewable power;

AND WHEREAS, A renewable energy initiative can produce energy cost savings for residents and local businesses while stimulating new economic activity and local jobs, all while simultaneously mitigating the risks from climate change for everyone;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of Solebury Township, Bucks County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

- Solebury Township will endeavor to preserve the past and embrace the future by joining leading towns and cities in the national Ready for 100 movement, with the goal of transitioning to 100% clean, renewable energy for all, and completing this transition, community-wide, to:
 - 100% clean renewable electricity by 2035;
 - 100% clean renewable energy when replacing heating system and transportation equipment by 2050;
 - As vehicles are replaced, priority will also be given to transitioning the Solebury Township vehicle fleet to 100% renewable energy sources by 2030 where feasible;
- The Solebury Township Environmental Advisory Council will provide guidance for commissioning a committee, task force, and/or consultant to draft an energy transition plan for achieving these goals by December, 2020 or sooner, to include interim milestones, financial impacts, equity metrics, potential financing mechanisms and the percentage of renewable energy that is locally produced;
- 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 geothermal;
- Locally produced and distributed energy is prioritized whenever feasible for the many advantages it provides to the community;
- Solebury Township will continue to strategically decrease energy usage by implementing energy efficiency improvements;
- Solebury Township will seek to work in collaboration with other regional townships wherever possible and feasible, in the creation of mechanisms and processes to achieve the goals of this resolution;
- Solebury Township stakeholders will have the opportunity and will be encouraged to participate in the planning and implementation process;
- Solebury Township will call on the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to set a goal to use 100% renewable energy for all purposes no later than 2050;
- Solebury Township will call on the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to adopt codes and standards to increase the efficiency of buildings and appliances;
- Solebury Township will call 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;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this Resolution be forwarded to State Senator Steve Santarsiero, State Representative Wendi Thomas, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf, U.S. Representative Brian Fitzpatrick, and U.S. Senators Bob Casey and Patrick Toomey.

RESOLVED, ADOPTED and APPROVED, on the 21st day of July, 2020, at a regular public meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Solebury Township.

**SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**



Mark Baum Baicker, Chair

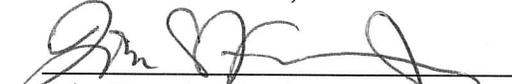


Kevin Morrissey, Vice-Chair

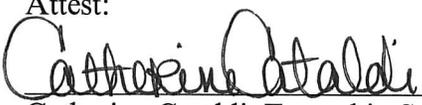
Noel Barrett, Member



Robert A. McEwan, Member



John Francis, Member

Attest:


Catherine Cataldi, Township Secretary

July 21, 2020

Date