

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

RESOLUTION NO. 14 - 2019

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN, MONTGOMERY
COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO SUPPORT THE BOROUGH
VISION FOR A 100% CLEAN RENEWABLE ENERGY FUTURE**

WHEREAS, Climate change has been observed and scientifically documented. In recent years, severe weather and natural disasters have become more frequent and more intense and continue to put residents at risk in our community and beyond. Like many areas of the United States, we are expected to experience higher temperatures, changes in precipitation, and more frequent severe weather events and river flooding because of climate change in the coming decades;

WHEREAS, Worsening of severe weather conditions will test our infrastructure, create unsafe emergency situations, disrupt services, reduce or interrupt access to food, water and energy supplies leading to a general decline in the quality of life and economic prosperity. Consequences of severe weather events can also lead to worsening or developing of health conditions associated with adverse circumstances;

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, 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 Montco 2040 Comprehensive Plan, adopted by the Montgomery County Commissioners in 2015, says the County will "promote energy conservation and sustainability with its employees, visitors to County facilities, and citizens-at-large," "small scale renewable energy, such as solar, wind, and geothermal, should be installed around the County in appropriate locations," and "local municipalities should adopt ordinances allowing renewable energy;"

WHEREAS, The 2018 Update to the Conshohocken Comprehensive Plan calls on the Borough itself as well as Borough residents, developers, and business owners to "implement practices that reduce energy consumption, increase efficiency, and increase use of alternative and renewable energy sources";

WHEREAS, The internationally agreed upon goals can be met based upon existing and new National, State, and Local initiatives; and our actions will contribute to a critical mass of local climate initiatives that can collectively reduce climate disruption and help minimize the impact of severe weather on our communities; and

WHEREAS, The best strategy for achieving a cost effective, even cost saving, energy source transition is through collaboration with other energy leaders communities in Montgomery County and other neighboring counties and participating in aggregated procurement contracts - Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) for regional wind and solar energy; to this end, the Borough of Conshohocken 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 power; and

WHEREAS, It is shown a coordinated renewable energy initiative can produce energy cost savings for residents and local businesses while stimulating new economic activity and local jobs; and

WHEREAS, Conshohocken is committed to continuing progress on health, safety, livability, prosperity and equity in the community; and

WHEREAS, The Borough of Conshohocken recognizes that it has a responsibility to future generations to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases which is generally associated with the use of fossil fuels and non-renewable energy within the borough; and

WHEREAS, The role of the Environmental Advisory Council (hereinafter, the Conshohocken EAC) is to identify environmental problems and recommend plans and programs to the Borough Council, the Planning Commission, and other committees and boards of the Borough for the promotion and conservation of the natural resources and for the protection and improvement of the quality of the environment within the Borough; and promoting a community environmental program, with particular emphasis on reducing carbon emissions and non-recycled waste.

WHEREAS, The Conshohocken EAC has considered this resolution and voted unanimously in favor of recommending its adoption to the Borough Council with the support of the Borough Administration.

WHEREAS, The Mayor of Conshohocken has acted on this priority and pledged support of "the Mayors National Climate Action Agenda" and signed the 2019 Mayors for Clean Energy Endorsement, promoted by Sierra Club, joining 206 Mayors from across the country;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by Borough Council as follows:

- Conshohocken Borough will transition to 100% clean, renewable energy for all, community-wide, and complete this transition to:
 - 100% clean renewable electricity by 2035;
 - 100% clean renewable energy when replacing heat & transportation equipment & vehicles by 2050;

- Priority will be given, at the discretion of the Borough Council and based on community priorities, that all strategies will promote Energy Efficiency to conserve energy and reduce energy consumption; short term commitments can include (Community Carbon Footprint Assessment, Community Readiness, Community Education programs etc.);
- The 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 geothermal;
- Locally owned, produced and distributed energy will be prioritized whenever economically and technically possible (e.g. photovoltaic panel installation) for the many advantages it provides to the community, but other options may be considered (such as switching to renewable energy supplier(s), community solar program(s), power purchase agreement(s), etc.);
- All Conshohocken stakeholders will have the opportunity and will be encouraged to participate in the planning and implementation process through public discussions, charrettes, workshops and meetings promoted locally by the Conshohocken EAC subject to the direction of Borough Council;
- The Conshohocken EAC will provide guidance and make recommendations to Borough Council for commissioning of an Energy Transition Task Force, consisting of Conshohocken residents, local stakeholders and individuals with knowledge of renewable energy planning. Subject to future resolution of Borough Council establishing such a task force, it is expected that members of the Task Force will serve for 2 years from January 1, 2020. The Energy Transition Task Force will be charged with, *inter alia*, drafting an energy Transition Plan (hereinafter, the Plan) by December 31, 2021, for achieving the aforementioned goals, to include interim milestones, financial impacts, equity metrics, potential financing mechanisms and percentage of clean energy that is locally produced, and with such other tasks as shall be determined from time to time by Borough Council;
- Conshohocken Borough Council commits to working with other Montgomery County municipalities, the Montgomery County Planning Commission and Delaware Valley Regional Valley Planning Commission to create an Energy Planner position to serve numerous municipalities. The Energy Planner will develop and recommend renewable energy strategies for Montgomery County municipalities, residents, businesses and institutions. Subject to such intergovernmental agreements as may be necessary, Borough Council may direct the Energy Planner to work with the Energy Transition Task Force. . Subject to future agreement between the municipalities, it is expected that the Energy Planner will serve for 2 years with an anticipated start date of January 1st, 2020. It is the intent of this resolution that the Energy Planner be funded by a number of participating municipalities and available grant support, with the

Borough of Conshohocken's contribution to be determined in due course and pursuant to future approval of Borough Council;

- The Energy Transition Task Force will report monthly to the Conshohocken EAC and quarterly to the Borough Council on the progress towards achieving interim milestones, targets and associated work plans, until the Plan has been adopted. The Energy Planner shall report to Borough Council as set forth in the intergovernmental agreement for such position. Following adoption of the Plan, or at the expiration of the Task Force's term (December 31, 2021) Borough Council shall determine the future role and responsibilities of the Task Force and Energy Planner, subject to current intergovernmental agreements currently in place, in order to achieve the Borough of Conshohocken's goal of 100% clean renewable electricity by 2035 and 100% clean renewable energy when replacing heat & transportation equipment & vehicles by 2050.

This Resolution shall become effective immediately.

RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Conshohocken this 19th day of June, 2019.

BOROUGH OF CONSHOHOCKEN:

Colleen Leonard
COLLEEN LEONARD, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

Stephanie Cecco
STEPHANIE CECCO,
BOROUGH SECRETARY

Approved this 19th day of June,
2019

Yaniv Aronson
YANIV ARONSON, MAYOR