



MEMORANDUM

TO: Timothy J. Baroody, City Manager
FROM: Diane Beyer, Assistant Director of Public Works
DATE: December 5, 2019 (For December 10 Council Meeting)
SUBJECT: 100% Renewable Energy Resolution

ISSUE

Adoption of Resolution acknowledging the serious threat of climate change & committing to a 100% renewable energy future.

RECOMMENDATION

We recommend that the Council adopt the attached resolution.

BACKGROUND

On August 29, 2019 a meeting occurred with Fossil Free Fredericksburg, Mayor Greenlaw and staff regarding the adoption of a resolution expressing the City's commitment to a 100% renewable energy future.

A revised resolution was presented at the Council Work Session on November 12, 2019. The consensus of Council and stakeholders present at the session was that the resolution be further revised to include hard dates for goal achievement.

This final draft incorporates dates for achievement and several other inclusions of stakeholders and focuses on the building of partnerships to achieve community-wide renewable energy goals.

FISCAL IMPACT

Fiscal impact of goal achievement is unknown at this time but suspected to be significant and will include such things as cost of electric vehicles, charging stations, personnel and other infrastructure changes.

Attachments: Resolution



December 10, 2019
Regular Meeting
Resolution 19-__

MOTION:

SECOND:

RE: Acknowledging the Serious Threat of Climate Change & Committing to a 100% Renewable Energy Future

ACTION: APPROVED: Ayes: 0; Nays: 0

Whereas, climate change has been identified by national and global scientific organizations as posing severe threats to human communities;

Whereas, the governments of this world—at national, regional, and community levels—have a responsibility to aggressively reduce carbon emissions that are the primary driver of contemporary climate change, as is made clear by the National Climate Assessment and other high profile reports;

Whereas, the price of zero emission, renewable energy has fallen dramatically, such that it is commercially viable at a cost equal to or less than that of carbon-emission producing fossil fuels;

Whereas, the City of Fredericksburg seeks to create a healthy and sustainable environment for the enjoyment of its current citizens and subsequent generations;

Whereas, the City seeks to maintain and promote its uniquely historic qualities, but understands that to protect this history, it must also create a sustainable future;

Whereas, the City and community of Fredericksburg has already demonstrated leadership on environmental and climate issues through, for instance,

- The activities and programs of the Clean and Green Commission;
- Adopting a C-PACE ordinance to help local businesses finance energy efficiency;
- Participating in the George Washington Planning Region's Climate, Environment and Readiness (CLEAR) Plan;
- Partnering with Tree Fredericksburg to enhance and manage the City's urban forest, which include a unique zero waste tree program;
- Increasing attention and implementation to stormwater issues and mitigations through planning and development reviews, field surveys and general education;
- Engaging in instituting energy efficiency measures and conducting additional assessments for over a decade in City structures;
- Developing additional markets for true reuse of recyclables, such as glass and construction debris;
- And by protecting important riparian buffer zones along the Rappahannock River.

Whereas, 131 U.S. cities—including Atlanta, GA, Charlottesville, VA, and Fayetteville, AR—and six states (including Virginia) and the District of Columbia have already committed to 100% clean energy goals;

Therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of Fredericksburg that:

Section 1. The City commits to the goal of powering municipal operations with 100% renewable energy by 2035 or earlier;

Section 2. The City of Fredericksburg commits to a community-wide goal of powering the City with 100% renewable energy sources no later than 2050.

Section 3. To achieve these goals, the City will:

1. Work with Fossil Free Fredericksburg, the Clean & Green Commission, Commonwealth of Virginia and federal resources to secure current, proven and adequate research regarding the holistic use of clean energy to include disposition of items of limited duration, such as batteries, and solar panels, and to include sources of energy providing charging to clean energy vehicles and to provide promotional campaigns and educational programs;
2. Work with the Planning Commission, the Fredericksburg Economic Development Authority, the Downtown Historic District, the School Board, the University of Mary Washington, Dominion Energy and other interested community and environmental groups to ensure that Fredericksburg's transition to a clean-energy future respects and enhances its historic qualities;

Section 4. Additionally, the City will seek to further facilitate and promote its thriving farmers market, Fredericksburg Food Co-op, community gardens, community events supported by Virginia Green and community supported agriculture, recognizing that these entities factor into reducing carbon emissions.

Section 5. Because climate change is increasing the likelihood of disaster events like strong tropical storms and other flood-producing rainfall, the City will continue to promote the health of the Rappahannock River and the Chesapeake Bay watershed by finding ways to reduce storm-water runoff, protecting riparian areas, preserving undeveloped land, and enhancing other flood mitigation strategies;

Section 6. The City will seek to create an inclusive leadership to achieve these goals that is reflective of the full range of backgrounds and experiences in the community, understanding that all of Fredericksburg's unique neighborhoods should have a voice and should be equally valued.

Section 7. In order to create the capacity to achieve these goals, the City of Fredericksburg will hire a sustainability and energy specialist in the coming years.

Section 8. Progress towards the goals set forth in this Resolution made by the City will be evaluated regularly with an annual summary provided to the City Council beginning in July 2023.

In approving this resolution, the City Council is taking an important step in the long-term effort to reduce impacts to the climate and adapt to climate change by transitioning Fredericksburg to 100% renewable energy. This resolution reflects the vision of citizens in our community who know that climate change poses significant challenges ahead, but who also believe in the strength, intelligence, creativity, and spirit of cooperation in our city.

Votes:

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent from Vote:

Absent from Meeting:

Clerk's Certificate

I certify that I am Clerk of Council of the City of Fredericksburg, Virginia, and that the foregoing is a true copy of Resolution No. 19-xx, adopted at a meeting of the City Council held _____ 2019, at which a quorum was present and voted.

Tonya B. Lacey, MMC
Clerk of Council