

Upon the recommendation of Councilor Alisa F. Klein, Councilor William H. Dwight, the Northampton Mayor's Youth Commission, and the Northampton Energy and Sustainability Commission

R-18.003

Resolution of the City Council of the City of Northampton in Support of 100 Percent Renewable Energy

WHEREAS, too much of our energy in the State of Massachusetts and the City of Northampton comes from fossil fuels that pollute our air and water and damage our climate; and

WHEREAS, Massachusetts communities are already experiencing the impacts of global warming through environmental phenomena such as rising sea levels, unprecedentedly severe storms, temperature extremes, and elevated particulate matter and smog pollution; and public health dangers such as an increase in pollution-related asthma and cardiovascular disease¹; and

WHEREAS, a goal of 100 percent renewable, clean energy will contribute to the mitigation of climate change, improve our City's air and water quality, and protect the health of our community's children, adults, and families; and

WHEREAS, the City of Northampton is already a proven leader in actively reducing carbon emissions and promoting clean energy by:

- Developing and implementing the Sustainable Northampton master plan;
- Constructing a large municipal solar array on a capped landfill, installing solar panels on several city-owned buildings, and promoting a successful Solarize Northampton program;
- Conducting the HeatSmart Northampton initiative to encourage residents and businesses to install cold climate air source heat pumps;
- Developing and expanding bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure throughout the City;
- Implementing energy efficiency upgrades in municipal buildings and street lights;
- Requiring new or renovated city buildings to meet LEED standards,
- Purchasing electric vehicles and installing public charging stations on city property;
- Mayor David J. Narkewicz signing onto the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy committing the City to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing resilience to climate change; and signing onto the Climate Mayors Agreement to adopt and uphold the climate change mitigation goals enshrined in the Paris Agreement despite President Donald Trump's withdrawal of the United States from the Agreement;
- The City Council passing unanimously an April 20, 2017 Resolution Calling on the Massachusetts Legislature to Establish Carbon Pollution Pricing to Curb Climate Change; and

¹ Hellerstein, B., Aristizabal, N., & Eddy, D. (August, 2017). 100% Renewable Boston: How Boston can accelerate the transition from fossil fuels to clean, renewable energy. Boston: Environment Massachusetts Research and Policy Center.

