



CITY OF SALEM

In City Council,

Resolution of the Salem City Council in support of 100 % renewable energy

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, too much of Massachusetts' energy comes from fossil fuels that pollute and endanger our air and water and affect our climate; and

WHEREAS, Massachusetts communities are already feeling the impacts of global warming; and

WHEREAS, the City of Salem is already taking action to reduce its carbon emissions and promote clean energy, including implementing Salem PowerChoice to bring 100% green energy options to Salem residents and businesses, encouraging alternative transportation through increased bicycling and improving the pedestrian infrastructure, installing electric vehicle charging stations, pursuing renewable energy generation projects to rely less on conventional utilities for power, and continuing to implement energy efficiency and conservation strategies in buildings and operations in accordance with the City's participation in the Department of Energy Resources Green Communities program; and

WHEREAS, clean energy has brought many benefits to Massachusetts, including reduced pollution, tens of thousands of clean energy jobs, and the retention of more of our energy dollars retained in the local economy; and

WHEREAS, Massachusetts has historically been a leader in the fight against global warming, and has a responsibility to continue to set a positive example for other states and countries to follow; and

WHEREAS, the City of Salem has already completed a Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan in 2014, recognizing the threat of climate change to Salem's infrastructure, vulnerable populations, emergency preparedness, economy, energy infrastructure, and natural resources. The City has already begun addressing these vulnerabilities using MA Office of Coastal Zone Management resources to assess green infrastructure adaptation strategies, flood control management in target neighborhoods, and beginning to update the City's emergency management plan to reflect rising sea levels and storm surge levels for major storm events; and

WHEREAS, Massachusetts can get 100 percent of its energy from clean, renewable sources by harnessing its abundant solar and wind resources, and taking advantage of innovations in energy efficiency, green transportation, energy storage, and other technologies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Salem in the County of Essex, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, that Massachusetts and the entire United States of America should commit to a goal of 100% clean, renewable energy, and move as quickly as possible to achieve that goal;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that leaders in the Legislature and statewide elected and appointed officials are urged to do everything in their power to bring Massachusetts closer to the goal of 100 percent renewable energy;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Salem will move forward with projects to reduce fossil fuel use and expand clean energy, including installing solar panels on all feasible municipal rooftop properties, and pursuing other renewable energy generation such as wind, geothermal, biomass, and hydropower. Furthermore, the City of Salem has already completed a feasibility study that affirms the possibility of a large scale wind turbine that could offset a significant portion of the City's electricity usage;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Salem shall endeavor to avoid taking actions that could increase the use of fossil fuels or delay the transition to 100 percent renewable energy;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Salem and its staff will review all municipal decisions and consider whether those choices will bring this historic city and its residents, businesses, and institutions closer to 100 percent renewable energy.

In City Council April 14, 2016

Referred to the Committee on Public Health, Safety and Environment co-posted with Committee of the Whole

In City Council September 22, 2016

Adopted as amended

Approved by the Mayor on September 29, 2016

Arthur C. Sargent, III

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[Signature]

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ATTEST:

CHERYL A. LAPOINTE
CITY CLERK