



Watertown Town Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

Caroline Bays
Councilor At Large

Anthony J. Donato,
Councilor At Large

Susan G. Falkoff,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Angeline B. Kounelis,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Kenneth M. Woodland,
District D Councilor

RESOLUTION # _____

2019-R-

TOWN OF WATERTOWN SUPPORTS A TRANSITION TO 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY

WHEREAS, global warming threatens human health, economic activity, and the stability of the Earth's ecosystems, with communities in Massachusetts already experiencing its adverse impacts; and

WHEREAS, clean energy production brings many benefits to Massachusetts, by reducing pollution, creating new clean energy jobs, and retaining more of our energy dollars in the local economy; and

WHEREAS, according to the *National Aeronautics and Space Administration*, multiple studies published in peer-reviewed scientific journals show that 97 percent or more of actively publishing climate scientists agree that climate-warming trends over the past century are extremely likely due to human activities; and

WHEREAS, the *Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* was adopted by consensus on December 12, 2015 and brings all nations into a common cause to undertake take ambitious efforts to combat climate change and adapt to its effects, with each country to determine, plan, and regularly report on the contribution that it undertakes to mitigate global warming; and

WHEREAS, *U.S. Global Change Research Program's Fourth National Climate Assessment*, a major scientific report issued by 13 federal agencies on November 23, 2018, predicts that if significant steps are not taken to address global warming, the resulting damage would have major impacts on Americans' quality of life, and reduce the US Gross Domestic Product 10% by the year 2100; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts passed the *Global Warming Solutions Act*, Chapter 298 of the Acts of 2008, which requires a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the state to 10%-25% below 1990 levels by 2020 and to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050; and also passed the *Green Jobs Act*, Chapter 307 of the Acts of 2008, to support the growth of a clean energy technology industry within the state; and

WHEREAS, the *Metropolitan Area Planning Council*, of which Watertown is a member, is urging all 101 member cities and towns to move to 100% renewable energy, and is providing technical and policy assistance for municipalities to set goals and undertake a holistic approach to their climate planning; and

WHEREAS, the *Watertown Comprehensive Plan* was adopted in June 2015 with a vision for our future, and includes Goal 1A in Chapter 10: "Consider developing a Climate Action or Energy Master Plan and adopt it as an addendum to the Watertown Comprehensive Plan".

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Town Council of the City Known as the Town of Watertown commits to aspirational goals of using 100% renewable energy for municipal electricity by 2035, and using 100% renewable energy for municipal heating and municipal transportation by 2050; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

1. That the Town of Watertown undertake a public process to develop and adopt a *Climate and Energy Master Plan*; and to use this plan to refine these renewable energy goals; and to develop additional goals and objectives for Watertown to meet, including Massachusetts' target reduction of greenhouse gas emissions of at least 80% below 1990 levels by 2050; and
2. That the Town Council of Watertown actively encourages non-municipal residential, commercial, and transportation sectors in Watertown commit to a transition to 100% renewable energy by 2050; and
3. That the Town Manager provide an annual report to the Town Council on the progress toward a transition to 100% renewable energy, for both municipal and non-municipal uses.

Council Member

I hereby certify that at a Meeting of the Town Council for which a quorum was present, this Resolution was adopted by a vote of ___for, ___ against, ___ present on January 8, 2019.

Marilyn W. Pronovost, Council Clerk

Mark S. Sideris, Council President