

Town of Poolesville 100% Renewable Energy Resolution

WHEREAS, the Maryland Clean Energy Jobs Act (SB-516) passed by the state of Maryland on May 22, 2019 requires 50% of Maryland's energy to come from renewable sources and 14.5% from in-state solar, by 2030; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County passed a resolution on December 5, 2017 to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2027 and to zero emissions by 2035; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Poolesville has a public-private partnership to power most of the local government's electrical needs via the Poolesville Solar Array, has encouraged electric vehicle adoption by providing public EV charging access, and established the Sustainable Poolesville committee to promote awareness of sustainability issues, identify opportunities for the Town to cost-effectively reduce its environmental impact, and facilitate initiatives to capture these opportunities; and

WHEREAS, clean energy sources such as wind are now more affordable than fossil fuel sources; and energy efficiency measures that drive down energy demand are the most cost effective means to reduce fossil fuel consumption; and

WHEREAS, renewable energy represents an enormous economic opportunity for the Town of Poolesville to create jobs in an emerging industry, increase economic security and expand prosperity for local residents, reduce air pollution and associated public health risks, reduce the strain on water resources, and save consumers money

WHEREAS, people of color, immigrants, refugees, economically disadvantaged residents, older people and children, people who are homeless, and people with existing mental and physical health conditions experience the impacts of climate change disproportionately; and

WHEREAS, clean energy is one of the fastest growing employment sectors and creates opportunities for good local jobs within the town; and

WHEREAS, cities across the nation have made commitments to transition to 100 percent clean energy and the Town of Poolesville strives to remain a leader among its peer towns; and

WHEREAS, "renewable energy" includes energy derived from wind, solar, geothermal, and wave technology sources. These sources of energy have significant public health co-benefits associated that can help address pressing environmental justice challenges in sensitive communities in the Town of Poolesville and around the country; and

WHEREAS, low-impact, small hydro and some forms of small-scale biomass may be considered “renewable energy” after being evaluated for public health, sustainability and environmental justice implications.

WHEREAS, “renewable energy” specifically excludes energy derived from fossil fuels, nuclear, incineration of municipal and medical waste, and large-scale future hydroelectric development.

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED by the Town Commission of Poolesville, the Town of Poolesville establishes a One Hundred Percent (100%) renewable energy goal for municipal electricity use by 2030 including at least 80% renewable energy by 2027.

Introduced on [DATE] by: Adopted on [DATE]