



## Takoma Park City Council Meeting – January 31, 2018 Agenda Item 1 (REVISED INFORMATION)

### **Voting Session**

Resolution Supporting a Stronger Maryland Renewable Portfolio Standard and Affirming the City's Commitment to Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Actions

*Note: Minor modifications have been made to the resolution. A redlined version is attached.*

### **Recommended Council Action**

Consider and vote on the resolution.

### **Context with Key Issues**

Councilmembers Cindy Dyballa and Peter Kovar prepared the resolution for Council's consideration.

The resolution urges the General Assembly to:

- 1) Increase Maryland's statewide Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) to at least 50% by 2030;
- 2) Invest in clean energy workforce development while targeting economically distressed communities and individuals who have historically experienced barriers to employment;
- 3) Increase funding for investment capital and loans to help minority-, female- and veteran-owned businesses enter and grow within the renewable energy industry; and
- 4) Eliminate as quickly as possible all incentives for non-clean energy sources under Maryland's RPS law.

### **Council Priority**

Environmentally Sustainable Government

### **Environmental Impact of Action**

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency and accelerating the change to renewable energy sources is critical to slowing climate change.

### **Fiscal Impact of Action**

No additional fiscal impact is anticipated as a result of adopting the resolution. The City already budgets for sustainability efforts.

### **Racial Equity Impact of Action**

The resolution supports targeted clean energy workforce development and increased funding to assist minority-, female- and veteran-owned businesses in the renewable energy industry.

## **Attachments and Links**

Revised Resolution

1                   **REVISED DRAFT TO BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE JANUARY 31 CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

2  
3  
4  
5 Introduced by:

6  
7                                   **CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND**

8  
9   **RESOLUTION 2018-#**

10           **A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A STRONGER MARYLAND RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD**  
11           **AND AFFIRMING THE CITY’S COMMITMENT TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY**  
12           **ACTIONS ~~TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND REDUCE GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS~~**

13  
14   Whereas,       the State of Maryland’s Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) law is a tool  
15                           intended as an incentive for adopting new and clean sources of renewable  
16                           energy that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other hazardous air and water  
17                           pollution; and

18  
19   Whereas,       the Maryland RPS, enacted in May 2004 and revised numerous times since then,  
20                           most recently in February 2017, requires electricity suppliers in the state to  
21                           procure a minimum portion of their electric retail sales from eligible renewable  
22                           energy sources; and

23  
24   Whereas,       the current state RPS of 25% by 2020 is a modest goal that is now outdated as a  
25                           result of accelerating climate change and its increased impacts, as well as  
26                           improving public and private sector efforts to adopt renewable energy sources;  
27                           and

28  
29   Whereas,       Maryland is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, including more  
30                           severe storms, increased flooding, more extreme heat and drought, sea level rise  
31                           along its extensive coasts, and other detrimental impacts; and

32  
33   Whereas,       production, use and transport of fossil fuel based energy is responsible for air,  
34                           water and ground pollution that presents significant health and environmental  
35                           problems; and

36  
37   Whereas,       Takoma Park has been a leader in responding to the challenges of climate  
38                           change and greenhouse gas emissions through many actions, including: adopting  
39                           (in 2014) and implementing an aggressive Sustainable Energy Action Plan for all  
40                           sectors of our local economy; energy efficiency programs that reduce fossil fuel  
41                           based energy use and greenhouse emissions production; procuring 100% of its  
42                           electricity supply for City operations from renewable sources for many years;  
43                           electricity production at City-owned buildings from solar and geothermal power;  
44                           installation of electric vehicle charging stations for residents’ use that rely on

45 electricity produced from wind power; and participation in a highly rated  
46 Montgomery County-led purchasing group for electricity supply generated from  
47 wind energy; and  
48 Whereas, the City of Takoma Park is publicly committed to action on climate change,  
49 having endorsed the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy,  
50 upholding the commitments of the Paris Climate Agreement, and the Sierra Club  
51 100% renewable energy pledge.

52  
53 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the City of Takoma Park supports Montgomery  
54 County Council’s Resolution 18-968 enacted November 28, 2017, and urges the General  
55 Assembly of Maryland to take legislative action to:

- 56
- 57 1) increase Maryland’s RPS law to at least 50% renewable energy sources by 2030,  
58 statewide;
  - 59
  - 60 2) invest in clean energy workforce development while targeting economically distressed  
61 communities and individuals who have historically experienced barriers to employment;  
62
  - 63 3) increase funding for investment capital and loans to help minority-, female- and veteran-  
64 owned businesses enter and grow within the renewable energy industry; and  
65
  - 66 4) eliminate as quickly as possible all incentives for non-clean energy sources under  
67 Maryland’s RPS law, ~~beginning with limiting eligibility of combustion sources to those~~  
68 ~~facilities currently in the RPS and removing all remaining non-clean sources by 2020.~~

69  
70 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the City of Takoma Park acknowledges and supports  
71 Montgomery County’s aspirational goal of 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2027  
72 (originally by 2050), and 100% reduction by 2035; and

73  
74 The City of Takoma Park will continue to aggressively pursue implementation of its Sustainable  
75 Energy Action Plan and related actions for all sectors of the City, as its resources will allow, as  
76 part of its contribution to efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the impacts of  
77 climate change; and

78  
79 The City Council seeks recommendations ~~advice~~ from the City Sustainability Manager and the  
80 Committee on the Environment, on specific methods (as well as costs and savings) for  
81 accelerating the City’s sustainable energy action program.

82  
83 This resolution is adopted by the Takoma Park City Council this day of \_\_, \_\_\_\_, 2018.

84  
85 Attest:

86  
87 Jessie Carpenter, CMC, City Clerk

88