



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – January 31, 2018 Agenda Item 1

Voting Session

Resolution Supporting a Stronger Maryland Renewable Portfolio Standard and Affirming the City's Commitment to Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Actions to Combat Climate Change and Reduce Greenhouse Emissions

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, beginning with limiting eligibility of combustion sources to those facilities currently in the RPS and removing all remaining non-clean sources by 2020.

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
Resolution

Introduced by:

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION 2018-#

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A STRONGER MARYLAND RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD AND AFFIRMING THE CITY'S COMMITMENT TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY ACTIONS TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND REDUCE GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS

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

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

Whereas, the current state RPS of 25% by 2020 is a modest goal that is now outdated as a result of accelerating climate change and its increased impacts, as well as improving public and private sector efforts to adopt renewable energy sources;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

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

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

Whereas, Takoma Park has been a leader in responding to the challenges of climate change and greenhouse gas emissions through many actions, including: adopting (in 2014) and implementing an aggressive Sustainable Energy Action Plan for all sectors of our local economy; energy efficiency programs that reduce fossil fuel based energy use and greenhouse emissions production; procuring 100% of its electricity supply for City operations from renewable sources for many years; electricity production at City-owned buildings from solar and geothermal power; installation of electric vehicle charging stations for residents' use that rely on electricity produced from wind power; and participation in a highly rated Montgomery County-led purchasing group for electricity supply generated from wind energy; and

Whereas, the City of Takoma Park is publicly committed to action on climate change, having endorsed the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, upholding the commitments of the Paris Climate Agreement, and the Sierra Club 100% renewable energy pledge.

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

- 1) increase Maryland's RPS law to at least 50% renewable energy sources by 2030, statewide;
- 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, beginning with limiting eligibility of combustion sources to those facilities currently in the RPS and removing all remaining non-clean sources by 2020.

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

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

The City Council seeks advice from the City Sustainability Manager and the Committee on the Environment, on specific methods (as well as costs and savings) for accelerating the City's sustainable energy action program.

This resolution is adopted by the Takoma Park City Council this day of __, ____, 2018.

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC, City Clerk