



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – March 7, 2018

Agenda Item 4

Voting Session

Single Reading Ordinance Selecting a Contractor for the Renewable Energy Community Campaign

Recommended Council Action

Adopt the ordinance.

Context with Key Issues

Takoma Park has a deep commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions city wide. The City has long purchased 100% wind electricity through renewable energy credits for its own operations. In 2014, the City adopted a Sustainable Energy Action Plan with 17 key strategies to reduce emissions. In 2016, the Mayor signed the Global Covenant of Mayors, and in 2017, pledged to uphold the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement. The City reports the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) annually, and is actively seeking new opportunities to reduce emissions and improve sustainability city-wide.

The City wishes to help residents and businesses switch to 100% renewable energy in an easy, convenient way. The current number of companies offering consumers renewable energy is large, and navigating contract terms, pricing in an unfamiliar market, and overcoming worries about fraud can be difficult barriers for consumers to overcome. By conducting research on rates, business reliability, and contract terms through this RFP, the City will make it easier for people to switch to 100% renewable power with confidence with the selected company(s).

All electricity accounts in Takoma Park are served by Pepco. In 2015, 36,859,651 kWh was consumed by residential accounts, and 55,834,236 kWh was consumed by commercial accounts.

The Department received three responses to the RFP that was issued on February 5, 2018. The three responses are from:

1. Clean Choice Energy
2. WGL
3. MBAdala

The review committee, consisting of Committee on the Environment members, community members, and staff, are scoring each response and will have a summary that will be discussed and reviewed at the meeting.

Council Priority

Environmentally Sustainable Community

Environmental Impact of Action

The program will result in reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and pollution from electricity supplying residents and businesses.

Fiscal Impact of Action

None

Racial Equity Impact of Action

Many persons of color in Takoma Park are persons for whom English is not their first language. By providing a program that minimizes the need for individuals to navigate confusing contract terms and options and by identifying a City-approved provider to limit concerns about fraud, this program will help close a racial equity gap in helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The selected contractor will provide grants/lower prices for low income qualified residents so that they can purchase 100% renewable energy at no increase in cost over their traditional Pepco service.

Attachments and Links

- Single Reading Ordinance

Introduced by:

Single Reading

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
ORDINANCE NO. 2018-
AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR A 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY SUPPLIER**

WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park has prioritized creating an environmentally sustainable community and continuing to be a leader in community sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the City has committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions city wide and electricity supply for residential and commercial accounts in the city make up 47% of the city's greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, all electric account holders in Takoma Park can choose to purchase 100% renewable electricity, however major obstacles including number of vendors, confusing contract terms, and variable or confusing pricing prevent many from signing up for 100% renewable electricity; and

WHEREAS, _____ submitted a response to the request for proposals to supply 100% renewable electricity to Pepco account holders in Takoma Park as part of a voluntary community sign-up campaign and will work closely with the Sustainability Manager on development of the outreach campaign; and

WHEREAS, an evaluation committee made up of staff and community members scored each bid and came to a consensus on the best fit

WHEREAS, _____ was selected based on experience in providing renewable electricity to customers in the Pepco territory, the support to be provided for the outreach efforts in Takoma Park, fair and reasonable contract terms, and fair and reasonable pricing for each customer class.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND, THAT:

SECTION 1. The City Manager is authorized to enter into a contract with _____ for the Renewable Energy Community Campaign.

SECTION 2. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately.

ADOPTED this _____ day of March, 2018 by roll-call vote as follows:

AYE:

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: