

Proposed Resolution for Radnor Township
A Vision For A 100% Clean Renewable Energy Future

WHEREAS: Climate change threatens the long-term survival of life on the planet;

WHEREAS: Extreme weather associated with climate change poses immediate and growing risks to communities, including testing our infrastructure, emergency and social services; impacting our access to food, water and energy supplies; heightening disruption of services, commerce and quality of life; and harming property and health;

WHEREAS, according to the United Nations Panel on Climate Change, society must reduce total CO₂ emissions 45 percent by 2030 and must secure carbon neutrality by 2050 to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, thereby decreasing the likelihood of catastrophic change undermining economic, natural, and social systems;

WHEREAS: Reliance on fossil fuels for power and transportation adds particulate matter to the environment that threatens the health of people, especially those with respiratory and cardiac conditions including asthma and heart attacks; carbon dioxide emissions are the primary greenhouse gas emitted by human activities, and combustion of fossil fuels for energy is the primary source of carbon dioxide emissions;

WHEREAS: Climate change effects are becoming more severe, including: rising temperatures which threaten human health, especially of vulnerable populations including elders and young children; more frequent dramatic weather patterns including storms associated with flooding that tax the capacity of our first responders to protect the safety of the population and also disrupt sanitation systems, exacerbating the risk of epidemics of infectious diseases; and changes in the pattern (should this be "geographic distribution"?) of flora and fauna, including vectors that increasingly transmit tropical infectious diseases in what used to be temperate areas;

WHEREAS: Additional risks posed by climate change to public health and safety include altered agricultural yields, which lead to marked increases in food prices, threatening the nutritional health of people in low-income and fixed-income households; and vulnerable populations, particularly those living in low-income and fixed-income households are placed at greater risk by rising costs of household energy, fuel, food, and the burden of care for health threats;

WHEREAS: The Radnor Township Board of Commissioners has previously demonstrated its commitment to advancing local climate solutions, with its 2007 endorsement of the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement, the adoption and initial implementation of the Greenhouse Gas Action Plan in 2012, including shifting to 100% renewable energy generation for the Township's electrical needs initiated by Radnor Township's Environmental Advisory Council's Green Procurement and Sustainable Practices Policy Team;

WHEREAS: A renewable energy initiative can produce energy cost savings for residents and local businesses while stimulating new economic activity and local jobs while providing life-protecting benefits for everyone;

AND, in order to ensure that Radnor Township continues to be a community characterized by health, safety, livability, prosperity and equity;

The Radnor Township Board of Commissioners resolves that:

- Radnor Township joins other leading towns and cities in committing to transition to 100% clean and renewable energy community-wide, and to complete this transition for 100% clean renewable electricity by 2035 and 100% renewable energy for heat and transportation by 2050;
- A task force will be convened, in coordination with Township staff and the Environmental Advisory Council, to oversee the preparation of an Energy Transition Plan for achieving these goals, to be completed by April 22, 2020 [Earth Day – or TBD and to include interim milestones, financial impacts, equity metrics, potential financing mechanisms and the percentage of clean energy that is locally produced;
- The clean renewable energy will be defined as carbon-free and pollution-free energy generated sustainably from renewable sources such as wind, solar, small hydro, tidal, fuel cells and geothermal;
- All Radnor Township stakeholders, both institutional and individual, will have the opportunity and will be encouraged to participate in the planning and implementation process;
- Radnor Township will pursue cost-effective measures for planning and implementation, including collaboration with neighboring municipalities and seeking grant opportunities;
- The Radnor Township Board of Commissioners will call on the State of Pennsylvania to set a goal to transition to 100% renewable energy for all purposes no later than 2050, and to pursue additional measures to advance the transition to renewable energy sources and to increase the efficiency of buildings and appliances;
- The Radnor Township Board of Commissioners will call on the United States Congress to enact sound, effective legislation with well-established economic benefits to put the United States on track to meet the above 100% renewable energy goals.