



City of Keene, N.H.
Transmittal Form

December 14, 2018

TO: Mayor and Keene City Council
FROM: Mari Brunner, Planning Technician
THROUGH: Elizabeth A. Dragon, City Manager
ITEM: J.1.
SUBJECT: Relating to Sustainable Energy Goals

RECOMMENDATION:

That Resolution R-2018-36 relative to Sustainable Energy Goals be referred to the Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee for consideration and a recommendation back to City Council.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

Resolution R-2018-36

BACKGROUND:

This item was originally submitted to City Council as a communication from Nancy Gillard and Carolyn Jones on November 1, 2018. The communication was referred by Mayor Lane to the Energy and Climate Committee (ECC) and the Municipal Services, Facilities, and Infrastructure (MSFI) Committee. The ECC discussed the proposed resolution at their meeting on November 7, 2018 and voted unanimously to recommend that the Keene City Council adopt the proposed Sustainable Energy Resolution.

The MSFI committee reviewed this item at their meeting on November 28, 2018 and heard from approximately 28 individuals during the public comments portion of the meeting, all of whom were in favor of adopting the proposed sustainable energy goals. Several individuals read statements on behalf of area businesses and organizations in support of the proposed goals, including Bensonwood, Filtrine Manufacturing, Green Energy Options, Monadnock Food Co-op, Tree Free Greeting, The Greater Keene Chamber of Commerce, and Keene State College Sustainability Office. The committee voted to recommend that City Council direct staff to introduce a resolution regarding sustainable energy, which passed on a vote of 4-1 with Councilor Sutherland opposing.

At the December 6, 2018 City Council meeting, the Council voted to direct staff to introduce a resolution regarding sustainable energy, as recommended by the MSFI committee. The motion passed with 13 in favor and Councilor Sutherland opposed.



CITY OF KEENE

R-2018-36

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand andEighteen.....

A RESOLUTIONRELATING TO SUSTAINABLE ENERGY GOALS.....

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Keene, as follows:

WHEREAS, The City of Keene has formally recognized the challenges of Climate Change since the year 2000 when it became a participant in the Cities for Climate Protection Program; and

WHEREAS, The City of Keene then developed and implemented a Climate Action Plan in 2004 and a Climate Adaptation Plan in 2007 and incorporated these plans into its 2010 Comprehensive Master Plan after extensive community stakeholder engagement; and

WHEREAS, The State of New Hampshire 2009 Climate Action Plan set a goal of reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 80% from 1990 to 2050; and

WHEREAS, the challenges presented by Climate Change have become increasingly apparent in the intervening years, as reported in the Congressionally-mandated National Climate Assessments; and

WHEREAS, the United States Energy Information Administration reports that the combustion of fossil fuels accounts for as much as 76% of US Greenhouse Gas Emissions; and

WHEREAS, energy efficiency measures that drive down energy demand are the most cost-effective means to reduce fossil fuel consumption, and clean energy sources such as solar, wind, and small hydro may now be cost-competitive with fossil fuel sources; and

WHEREAS, local, distributed generation of energy can provide resilience to weather-related interruptions of energy supply and economic disruptions of energy pricing while reducing air pollution and associated public health risks; and

WHEREAS, clean, renewable energy is one of the nation's fastest-growing employment sectors and represents an enormous economic opportunity for Keene to create jobs and attract talent, thereby contributing to the vision of a vibrant economy outlined in the Comprehensive Master Plan and the Economic Development Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, economically disadvantaged residents, older people and children, people who are homeless, people with disabilities or health conditions, and

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members of other underrepresented minorities experience the impacts of climate change disproportionately; and

WHEREAS, cities across the nation have made commitments to transition to 100 percent clean energy and Keene strives to remain a leader among its peer cities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Keene that:

A. It is the goal of the City of Keene that all electricity consumed in the City will come from renewable energy sources by the year 2030 and that 100% of all thermal energy and energy used for transportation come from renewable energy sources by the year 2050. This goal will apply to the entire Keene community, not just municipal government operations.

B. The City of Keene develop a strategic plan by December, 2020 to meet these renewable energy goals through a transparent and inclusive stakeholder process.

This resolution shall take effect upon sixty (60) days following approval by City Council.

Kendall W. Lane, Mayor