

A RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE GOALS OF ACHIEVING CLEAN ENERGY BY 2050

WHEREAS, The Wake County Board of Commissioners have a long standing, proactive position toward the conservation of energy and the protection of natural resources for the betterment of the citizens of Wake County; and

WHEREAS, climate change is expected to increasingly impact North Carolina's temperatures, precipitation and sea level with harmful consequences in coming years; and

WHEREAS, a just transition to 100% renewable energy can benefit low-income communities and communities of color that are disproportionately impacted by fossil fuel pollution;

WHEREAS, in September 1978 the Wake County Board of Commissioners established the first Energy Policy and Created the Citizens' Energy Advisory Commission; and

WHEREAS, in May of 1992 the Board of Commissioners adopted by resolution the first Energy Conservation and Management Policy that authorized the County Manager to establish design, construction and management standards, declared that all employees share in energy conservation and encourage future guideline revisions; and

WHEREAS, in June 2004 the second energy guideline titled "Guidelines for Design and Construction of Energy-Efficient County Government Facilities and Schools" was established in partnership with the Wake County Public School System; and

WHEREAS, in 2015 the Board of Commissioners established under the goal of Growth and Sustainability, and the objective of Promoting Sustainability efforts throughout the County, the initiative to 1) review supporting advisory groups and their missions, 2) assess Wake County's Energy status among its peer groups, and 3) update its 2004 Energy Design Guideline.

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors in 2017 passed a resolution supporting 100% clean renewable energy community-wide for cities by 2035;

WHEREAS, in June 2017 the Board of Commissioners endorsed the Paris Climate Agreement in order "... to continue its efforts towards sustainability and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions..."; and

WHEREAS, Wake County, WCPSS, and Wake Technical Community College staff have met and created common and distinct guidelines that meet the needs of their respective governing bodies and have resolved to meet and report energy information annually to the Energy Advisory Commission to learn and to leverage research and development; and

WHEREAS, in March 2018 the Energy Advisory Commission endorsed and recommended the 2018 Energy Design and Management Guideline update by consensus; and

WHEREAS, in April 2018 the Board of Commissioners subcommittee on Growth Land Use and Environment received and recommended to the full Board of Commissioners the 2018 Energy Design and Management Guideline update by consensus; and

WHEREAS, in May 2018 the Board of Commissioners adopted the 3rd update of the Energy Guideline named the "Energy Design and Management Guideline" and directed the County Manager to implement this guideline consistent with existing policy effective immediately; and

WHEREAS, the May 2018 Energy Design and Management Guideline requires that all new facilities shall be "**Solar Ready**" and renewable energy planning shall begin early in building design to accelerate solar technology installation when economic payback is favorable; and

WHEREAS, in July 2018 the Board of Commissioners adopted a budget authorizing two Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Pilot projects so that staff might establish the necessary design, construction and energy management skills; and

WHEREAS, the 350.Org - Triangle Chapter has identified a target to achieve Clean Energy by 2050; and

WHEREAS, Clean Energy by 2050 is defined as transitioning 100% of energy consumed by County operations from fossil fuel-based energy to renewable energy including Solar, Wind, Tidal & Wave, Hydroelectric, and Geothermal; and

WHEREAS, the Wake County Board of Commissioners believes that achieving Clean Energy by 2050 requires also having a goal of transitioning 80% of energy consumed by County operations from fossil fuel-based energy to such renewable sources by 2035; and

WHEREAS, in September 2018 the Board of Commissioners subcommittee on Growth Land Use and Environment deemed it would be in the interests of Wake County citizens for the Wake County Board of Commissioners to join in the effort to achieve Clean Energy by 2050 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE WAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS endorses the goal of Clean Energy by 2050 and joins its fellow state and local governments in advocating for the use of Clean Energy where such action results in reasonable and foreseeable economic payback and is subject to budget availability; that the Wake County Government will commit itself in its own operations, policies, and guidelines to continuing its efforts towards clean energy, sustainability, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and the reduction fossil fuel use; and that the County Commission does hereby authorize the County Manager to support efforts toward the Clean Energy by 2050 goal through fiscally responsible budget expenditures, and encourages all energy sectors of Wake County's economy to adopt similar goals in their own operations.

Adopted the 15th of October 2018.

Jessica Holmes, Chair
Wake County Board of Commissioners