

**RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF HARRISONBURG'S TRANSITION TO  
RENEWABLE ENERGY BY 2035**

**WHEREAS**, effective January 14, 2020, Harrisonburg City Council adopted the City's first Environmental Action Plan (EAP); and

**WHEREAS**, in light of continuing developments such as Virginia's adoption of its Clean Economy Act, Council wishes to affirm certain policies and goals in conjunction with furthering the EAP, as well as supporting the transition to renewable energy generally;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Harrisonburg City Council adopts the following policies and goals and urges subsequent Councils to continue these commitments to our community, namely to:

1. Pursue the goal of reaching 100% clean renewable energy within Harrisonburg's electricity sector by the year 2035, and by 2050 within all sectors including transportation and heating and cooling, for all public and private uses. Clean renewable energy herein refers to the use of energy produced from the sun, wind, hydro, geothermal, sustainable biopower, and other technologies that are currently not known, and to be evaluated specifically for carbon impact, public health, and environmental justice implications;
2. Support efforts to reach near-zero greenhouse gas emissions through policies that shift the energy supply strategy of the City from fossil fuels, with the goal of achieving 100% clean renewable energy in this context by 2050;
3. Proclaim its commitment to equity, affordability, and access for all people through public participation of diverse stakeholders as the City pursues a just transition to 100% clean, renewable energy, and energy efficiency, specifically including adhering to these principles in determinations made by Harrisonburg and all of its governmental bodies;
4. Support work with regional and statewide allies and other organizations to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emission by replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy, along with conservation and energy efficiency;
5. Support tax incentives, when allowed by Virginia law, that promote the growth of preferred green jobs in our region to achieve full employment and protect the environment;
6. Continue discussion and policy implementations for well-planned, managed growth in light of the City's commitment to renewable energy;
7. Establish policies and procedures to modernize Harrisonburg's infrastructure to focus on a clean economy;
8. Support local governments establishing a state and community-wide target of powering their communities with 100 percent clean, renewable energy by 2035;
9. Proclaim that priority should be given to low-cost measures to meet energy needs including efficiency, weatherization, cogeneration, district heating and cooling, decentralized electricity generation and smart grids/microgrids, the use of industrial waste heat, building controls, automated lighting, solar-powered hot water heaters, and programs that create an energy-saving culture throughout the City;
10. Proclaim that given the economic potential of clean, renewable energy, the transition nationwide should prioritize the inclusion of low-income citizens in the benefits to be


derived from the transition, including but not limited to creating quality jobs and careers to facilitate a just transition for workers displaced by fossil fuel reduction; and

11. Recognize that the transition to a clean energy economy provides our city with an opportunity to address related public health and social justice issues such as improving equitable access to affordable housing and public transportation, supporting small business development, and creating a more livable and walkable city.
12. Affirm that climate change affects all residents and businesses, but that communities which already face socioeconomic and health inequities will be most severely impacted and such communities therefore require an investment in resilience that is proportionate to these more severe risks.

Adopted: 10th day of November, 2020

  
MAYOR

ATTEST

  
CITY CLERK