



CITY OF ALLENTOWN

RESOLUTION

R70 – 2023

Introduced by City Council on April 5, 2023

Commits to a “fair and equitable” transition to clean, renewable energy and energy efficiency for municipal operations as part of the City’s commitment to mitigate Climate Change

Resolved by the Council of the City of Allentown, That

WHEREAS, since the 1800s, human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to burning fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas, generating greenhouse gas trapping the sun’s heat and raising temperatures; and

WHEREAS, the Earth is now about 1.1°C warmer than it was in the late 1800s; the last decade (2011-2020) was the warmest on record and greenhouse gas concentrations are at their highest levels in 2 million years; and

WHEREAS, City Council is desirous of taking action to mitigate the impact of climate change by developing a sustainable and cost-effective way to promote renewable energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 2019, City Council passed a resolution expressing the City’s support of solar energy in Allentown; and

WHEREAS, the Allentown Environmental Advisory Council has been conducting research and has made recommendations on cost-effective ways to reduce the City’s energy costs; and

WHEREAS, the Allentown Vision 2030 Plan includes a recommendation that the City prepare a comprehensive Climate Action Plan that would assess Allentown’s carbon contribution and make recommendations to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, there are various policies, plans, and programs that the City can consider implementing to encourage the deployment of energy efficient facilities, including the consideration of:

Soliciting recommendations from the Environmental Advisory Council on renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives;

Evaluating opportunities, conducting studies, and performing research;

Seeking funding from federal and state agencies and leveraging state and federal technical assistance grants;

Taking advantage of Pennsylvania's Guaranteed Energy Savings Act in developing renewable energy and energy efficiency to demonstrate both feasibility and community commitment to using local resources;

Commit to a "fair and equitable" transition to 100% clean, renewable electricity for municipal operations.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY ALLENTOWN CITY COUNCIL that it is the legislative policy of Allentown City Council to consider, evaluate, and support the adoption of plans, programs, and regulations relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency, as appropriate;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as a first step in assessing Allentown's carbon and greenhouse gas emissions, City Council recommends the City working through Pennsylvania's Guaranteed Energy Savings Act funding hire a consultant through the city's procurement procedures to evaluate energy efficiency for city buildings and infrastructure; and make recommendations for an overall energy plan for city buildings.

Resources:

Local Government Guide for Solar Deployment Solar Energy Technologies Office

<https://www.energy.gov/eere/solar/local-government-guide-solar-deployment>

Philadelphia Passes 100% Renewable Energy Resolution

<https://solarindustrymag.com/philadelphia-passes-100-renewable-energy-resolution>

Environmental Law and Policy Center

https://elpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/ELPC-ClimateCities_Solar-Toolkit.pdf