

DRAFT-5/24/2018

City of Greenfield, MA city shield

In the City Council, DATE, in the Year Two Thousand and Eighteen Upon the recommendation of Town Councilors Tim Dolan, Precinct 5, + *other Councilors TBA*, and the Sustainable Greenfield Implementation Committee, Greening Greenfield, Franklin County Continuing the Political Revolution Climate Action Task Force.

**Resolution of the City Council of Greenfield in Support of
100% Renewable Energy and a Fossil Fuel Free Future
in Greenfield, and in Massachusetts, and the Nation**

WHEREAS, In 2009, Greenfield adopted two goals for 2050 to address two issues caused by the use of fossil fuels: the climate crisis, which is caused primarily by our burning of fossil fuels; and a financial crisis that was caused by purchasing fossil fuels to meet energy needs, and thereby sending our money out of the region. The goals we set for 2050 were to 1) reduce climate change emissions from fossil fuels by 80%, and 2) ensure that zero dollars leave the region for the purchase of energy.

WHEREAS, we could meet 100% of our energy needs with renewable energy by harnessing abundant solar and wind resources and embracing innovations in energy efficiency, green transportation, energy storage, and other technologies for lighting, heating and cooling; and

WHEREAS, the shift to 100% renewable energy has many local, regional, and global benefits such as:

- Increasing energy independence, energy security, and community resilience;
- Reducing the cost of utility bills of residents and businesses and the municipality for heating, cooling, and lighting;
- Promoting employment opportunities and economic growth in Greenfield and therefore in Massachusetts as a whole;
- Enhancing the well-being of our community by protecting the health of our residents through the improvement of the City's air, water, and economy;
- Facilitating local control and ownership of energy options;
- Extending tangible benefits to low-income residents and others who have historically been disadvantaged by fossil fuel-based energy systems;
- Keeping financial resources in the community through conservation, energy efficiency, and the production and sale of locally-produced energy;
- Reducing global warming emissions which cause climate change; and

WHEREAS, Greenfield has already demonstrated leadership by becoming the first Green Community in Massachusetts; creating a department of Energy and Sustainability; creating Greenfield Light and Power, which delivers 100% renewably-produced electricity to all at a competitive rate; and writing and adopting its Master plan entitled *Sustainable Greenfield*. As a result of its efforts, it is currently saving over one half a million dollars each year on its utility bills; and (Please see addendum for a complete list of Greenfield's energy-related accomplishments.)

WHEREAS, proposed state and federal legislation recognize the urgency to act and the benefits of moving toward a society that meets its energy needs with 100% renewable energy;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Greenfield, Massachusetts supports the rapid attainment of the goal of a fossil fuel free future, with 100% clean, renewable energy for the City of Greenfield, and the State of Massachusetts and the Nation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Greenfield will assess all municipal decisions that require energy consumption, such as building construction and retrofits, lighting, transportation, water delivery and waste management, with reference to the City's commitment to reaching its goal of being 100% reliant on renewable energy sources, and will consistently strive to choose the least consumptive, and most energy-efficient options available, and:

- continue to promote and support initiatives that Greenfield has already developed to reduce energy use and transition to 100% renewable energy use;
- continue to strive to improve Greenfield Light and Power's energy mix by increasing the percentage of locally-produced renewable energy while maintaining a competitive price;
- continue to promote energy use reduction programs such as MassSave, and transitions from fossil fuel use to renewably-produced electricity in private homes and businesses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of Greenfield, Massachusetts supports the rapid adoption of state and federal legislation that aims to move our state and the nation toward a 100% renewable energy future; and applauds Representative Paul Mark for introducing the Green Bank Bill (H1763) and co-sponsoring many other bills that will move us toward our goal; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Administrative Assistant to the City Council shall cause a copy of this resolution to be sent to Greenfield Mayor Martin; U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren; U.S. Senator Ed Markey; U.S. Representative James McGovern; MA Governor Charles Baker; MA Acting Senate President Harriette L. Chandler; MA Speaker of the House Robert A. DeLeo; MA State Representative Paul Mark; State Senator Michael J. Barrett, Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy (TUE); State Representative Thomas A. Golden, Jr, House Chair of TUE; State Senator Michael D. Brady, Senate Vice Chair of TUE; State Representative Frank A. Moran, House Vice Chair of TUE; all members of the TUE: State Senators Marc R. Pacheco, Anne M. Gobi, Joan B. Lovely, Bruce E. Tarr; and State Representatives James M. Cantwell, Carolyn C. Dykema, Nick Collins, Josh S. Cutler, Adrian Madaro, Daniel Cahill, Joan Meschino, Leonard Mirra, and Randy Hunt; and members of the Senate Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change: Chairman Mark R. Pacheco, Vice chairman James B. Eldridge, and members Michael J. Barrett, Joseph A. Boncore, James M. Lewis, and Patrick M/O'Connor; Mass Power Forward, a coalition of over 150 environmental groups in Massachusetts; and 350.org.

See addendum next page

ADDENDUM:

Nine Years of Greenfield's Achievements in Actively Adopting Renewable Energy And Reducing Climate Change Emissions, Fossil Fuel Use, and Funds Flowing From Our Region

- 2009**
- Greenfield's mayor Christine Forgey adopted two 2050 goals for the town:
 - 80% reduction in climate change emissions, and
 - Zero energy dollars leaving the region.This was in response to the discovery that in 2008 Greenfield spent \$86 million on energy for heating, lighting, and transportation and business operations; of which \$67 million left the region to pay for oil, natural gas, gasoline, and electricity.
- 2010**
- Greenfield was designated a Green Community in Massachusetts in the first round of designations for the state;
 - Greenfield received Gov. Patrick's "Leading by Example" Award, for its collaborative efforts with Greening Greenfield on the 10% Challenge and other municipal efforts to reduce energy use.
- 2011 – 2014**
- Greenfield conducted Energy Smart Homes and Business programs to encourage residents and businesses to take advantage of utility energy efficiency program, MassSave.
- 2012**
- Greenfield completed the first-in-the nation, Zero-net energy, multi-modal transit station;
 - Greenfield constructed a 2-megawatt solar farm on a capped landfill that provides roughly 50% of municipal electricity; and installed public electric vehicle charging stations on city property.
- 2013 – onward**
- Greenfield continued to implement energy efficiency upgrades to municipal buildings to reduce energy and fossil fuel use;
 - Greenfield began and continues to improve bike safety by establishing and posting on-street bike path signage and street striping.
- 2014-2015**
- Greenfield residents wrote **Sustainable Greenfield**, our master plan, which was adopted by the Town Council;
 - Greenfield created Sustainable Greenfield Implementation Committee (SGIC);
 - Greenfield created and staffed a department of Energy and Sustainability;
 - **Greenfield Light and Power created**, which delivers 100% renewably-produced electricity to all at a competitive rate;
- Starting in 2014, Greenfield replaced all streetlights and parking lot lights with energy saving LEDs This effort was completed in 2017;
 - Greenfield made a commitment to purchase more energy efficient vehicles whenever the opportunity arose;
 - Greenfield conducted a Solar Challenge program to enable residents and businesses to install solar electric panels at the lowest price possible, which resulted in 500kw of installed solar on over 50 homes and businesses.
- 2016**
- Greenfield municipality started saving over half a million dollars each year on utility bills compared to 2008;
 - Greenfield adopted a Complete Streets policy, which aims to upgrade streets and sidewalks to improve safety for walkers, bikers, wheelchair users, buses, and cars;
 - Greenfield adopted a Tree Ordinance, which includes a commitment to plant one to two trees for every tree taken down depending on tree size, and allows the planting of trees in the tree belt;
 - Greenfield opened its new LEED Gold certified Greenfield High School.
- 2017**
- Governor Baker recognized the City for its outstanding leadership as a designated Green Community that has reduced its municipal energy consumption, since 2008, by 22%.
- 2018**
- Greenfield opened the John Zon Community Center, a zero-energy-ready facility.
 - This summer, the Town Hall and Green River School, will become fossil fuel free and powered by 100% renewable energy when their natural gas heating systems are replaced with electric air source heat pumps, and 100% green electricity.
- Greenfield also hosts:**
- Two solar installation companies; numerous insulation businesses; the Wisdom Way Solar Village, a near-zero-energy affordable housing project; a zero-energy multi-modal transit center; a several businesses with large solar installations such as Small Corp; a biodiesel plant that will be coming on line soon; and an impressive array of zero-energy apartments and homes, which produce as much energy as they use on an annual basis. All of these projects reduce energy and fossil fuel use, reduce climate change emissions, and demonstrate the viability and advantages of a 100% renewable energy future.

