

City of Urbana Calling for 100% Renewable Energy

WHEREAS, There is broad scientific consensus that Earth's climate is warming and this warming is being caused by human activities that cause the release of greenhouse gases due to use of fossil fuels[1];

WHEREAS, climate change has far reaching impacts, including increasing likelihood of extreme weather events, sea level rise, flooding, drought, and mass extinctions[2];

WHEREAS, scientist are warning that we are quickly approaching climate tipping points, unpredictable and irreversible changes in our planet's climate[3];

WHEREAS, climate change can have a disproportionate and adverse impact on vulnerable populations especially people living in environmental justice communities, people with low-incomes, children, and seniors.

WHEREAS, the impact of climate change can cause damage to public parks, roads, municipal properties and equipment;

WHEREAS, co-pollutants from burning fossil fuels create significant respiratory ailments and deaths[4]

WHEREAS, the provision of basic public services such as water treatment and snow removal can increase with climate change;

WHEREAS, resources for first responders can be strained when climate change related extreme weather events arise;

WHEREAS, many of the costs associated with the impacts of climate change and/or mitigating those impacts will be borne by state and local governments, putting further strain on public budgets;

WHEREAS, it is less expensive to plan for and mitigate the impacts of climate change, rather than respond to emergencies when they happen; and

WHEREAS, studies show the feasibility of creating a 100% carbon free energy system, while creating jobs and improving public health[5];

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED: The City of Urbana urges the state of Illinois to establish a renewable portfolio standard (RPS) with a goal of 100% renewable energy and transportation by 2035 and a halt to all new fossil fuel energy projects in the state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The RPS must only contain safe, clean energy such as wind, solar, geothermal and tidal energy sources, not greenhouse gas emitting sources such as burning animal waste, biomass, garbage or false solutions that continue reliance on fossil fuels like pollution trading, carbon capture and sequestration (CCS), gas power plants or pollution trading; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: Policies must be enacted to support the development of distributed renewable energy, including those that support energy efficiency, retail net metering of electricity, community choice aggregation and community solar; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: There must be meaningful participation of community members most affected by policy and infrastructure, in the development and implementation of a clean energy plan. Special efforts must be made to engage communities that are underrepresented in the decision-making process such as Indigenous groups, low-income communities, people of color, immigrants, and those disproportionately burdened by pollution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: As we transition to a 100% clean energy system, we must transition workers from jobs in the fossil fuel industry to living wage union jobs that support energy efficiency and the development of a renewable energy system. A just transition will include job training programs and relocation assistance that prioritize workers in displaced industries and those living in environmental justice communities.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED: that the federal government and the state must provide grants and resources to support municipal, county, state and regional efforts to meet the goal of 100% renewable energy.

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- [1] Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change (2013) "**Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis**" <http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg1/>
- [2] Herring Stephanie, (2015) EXPLAINING EXTREME EVENTS OF 2014 FROM A CLIMATE PERSPECTIVE <http://journals.ametsoc.org/doi/pdf/10.1175/BAMS-ExplainingExtremeEvents2014.1>
- [3] Crowther, T.W. "Quantifying global soil carbon losses in response to warming". Nature. Volume 540. December 1, 2016.
- [4] Clean Air Taskforce (2010) "[The Toll from Coal: An Updated Assessment of Death and Disease from America's Dirtiest Energy Source](http://www.catf.us/resources/publications/files/The_Toll_from_Coal.pdf)" http://www.catf.us/resources/publications/files/The_Toll_from_Coal.pdf
- [5] Makhijani, Arjun. Carbon-Free and Nuclear-Free: A Roadmap for U.S. Energy Policy. Institute for Energy and Environmental Research. 2010. <http://ieer.org/projects/carbon-free-nuclear-free/>