

RESOLUTION NO. 12-2020
WEST VINCENT TOWNSHIP
CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

A RESOLUTION OF WEST VINCENT TOWNSHIP SUPPORTING A 100% RENEWABLE
ENERGY FUTURE BY 2050.

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors is committed to the health, safety, livability, prosperity, independence, and security of West Vincent Township and its residents; and

WHEREAS, the impacts of climate change will stress our infrastructure, emergency and social services; threaten our access to food, water and energy supplies; heighten the disruption of services and commerce; and pose direct and indirect health risks to children and all current and future residents, workers and visitors; and

WHEREAS, a major contributor to climate change is the continued use of fossil fuels by individuals, businesses, and government agencies; and

WHEREAS, there is a finite supply of fossil fuels and a renewable energy initiative can produce energy cost savings for the township's operations, residents and local businesses while stimulating new economic activity and jobs in the region, and provide life protecting benefits for everyone; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris resulted in a consensus among all 195 countries to limit the increase in global average temperatures to well below 2 degrees Celsius, ensure that greenhouse gas emissions will not exceed sinks (total carbon capture) by the second half of this century, and become carbon neutral between 2050 and 2100; and

WHEREAS, West Vincent Township is a member of the Phoenixville Regional Planning Committee which has created a Comprehensive Plan. This plan includes a chapter titled "Energy Conservation and Sustainability Plan" that "focuses on methods of achieving greater efficiency and cleaner sources of energy generation for electricity, heating and transportation in order to reduce pollution, limit the depletion of and dependency on finite resources, and lessen the impacts of carbon-induced climate change"; and

WHEREAS, West Vincent Township has created a Sustainability Plan. This plan includes a value category titled "Energy" that "looks at how we can reduce practices that release carbon dioxide into our atmosphere, including the over-dependence on cars for travel, the inefficient use of energy in homes and businesses, and the way land is developed and farmed and buildings are constructed". This plan has set a goal to reduce township-wide carbon dioxide emissions from 2005 levels; and

WHEREAS, in January 2019, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf signed an executive order establishing statewide goals to reduce carbon pollution in the Commonwealth. The executive order states the Commonwealth will work to achieve a 26 percent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2025, and an 80 percent reduction by 2050, from 2005 levels; and

WHEREAS, various municipalities throughout southeastern Pennsylvania have adopted resolutions with goals for the transition to renewable energy in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the best strategy for achieving a cost effective, even cost saving, energy source transition is through collaboration with other Chester County townships and boroughs; and

WHEREAS, the role of the West Vincent Township Environmental Advisory Council is to identify environmental problems and recommend plans and programs to the township Board of Supervisors for the promotion and conservation of our natural resources, and for the protection and improvement of the environment within the township; and

WHEREAS, the West Vincent Township Environmental Advisory Council has considered this resolution, and recommends its adoption to the township Board of Supervisors with the support of the township administration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. West Vincent Township will join other leading towns and cities in the national movement to transition to 100% clean and renewable energy community-wide, and complete the transition to 100% clean and renewable energy for electricity by 2035, and 100% renewable energy for heat and transportation by 2050; and
2. Renewable energy will be defined as carbon-free and pollution-free energy generated sustainably from renewable sources such as wind, solar, small hydro, tidal, fuel cells and geothermal; and
3. The Board of Supervisors will provide guidance for commissioning a committee (that can include members from the West Vincent Township Environmental Advisory Council and Sustainability Committee, and additional township residents and local stakeholders) and/or a consultant that will draft an energy transition plan (hereinafter, the Plan) for achieving the above stated goals by December 31, 2021; and
4. The Plan will include recommendations, interim milestones, implementation strategies, financial impacts, potential financial mechanisms and equity metrics; and
5. The Plan will coordinate initiatives with the township's Sustainability work plan and will prioritize energy efficiencies and locally produced and distributed energy; and
6. West Vincent Township will collaborate with other Chester County townships and boroughs and planning teams such as the Phoenixville Regional Planning Committee to develop a comprehensive community energy plan; and


7. All West Vincent Township residents and stakeholders will have the opportunity and will be encouraged to participate in the township's work on implementing the Plan; and
8. The Board of Supervisors will be updated twice a year on the progress of achieving the interim milestones, targets and associated work plans; and
9. West Vincent Township will call on the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to set a goal to use 100% renewable energy for all purposes no later than 2050; and
10. West Vincent Township will call on the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to adopt codes and standards to increase the efficiency of buildings and appliances; and
11. West Vincent Township will call on the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to increase the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards to levels that put us on track to meet 100% renewable energy goals.

RESOLVED and **APPROVED** this 18th day of February, 2020.

ATTEST:


Kathryn Shillenn, Township Secretary

**WEST VINCENT TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

By: 
Michael Schneider, Chairman

By: 
Bernie Couris, Vice Chairman

By: 
Sara Shick, Member