

RESOLUTION OF THE DURHAM CITY COUNCIL SUPPORTING RENEWABLE ENERGY AND CARBON NEUTRALITY

WHEREAS, the Durham City Council has a long standing, proactive position toward the conservation of energy and the protection of natural resources for the residents of Durham; and

WHEREAS, increasing levels of greenhouse gas emissions are having adverse impacts on both the natural and built environments due to increased frequency of extreme weather and climate events; and

WHEREAS, Durham's former mayor William V. "Bill" Bell joined over 1,000 other mayors in signing on to the US Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement to commit to significantly reduce carbon emissions in their cities to combat climate change, and Mayor Steve Schewel has recommitted the City to this agreement going forward; and

WHEREAS, former Mayor William V. "Bill" Bell committed the City to upholding the commitments of the Paris Agreement through the Mayors National Climate Action Agenda; and

WHEREAS, in December 2017, the City of Durham was recognized as a 4-STAR Community for national excellence in sustainability through the STAR Community Rating System, the nation's leading framework and certification program for evaluating local sustainability using standardized performance measures; and

WHEREAS, in July 2017, the City of Durham released its first ever Sustainability Report, which has since been expanded by the General Services Department and adopted by the City Council in March 2018 as the City of Durham Roadmap to Sustainability, which lays out goals across seven social, economic, and environmental impact areas with targets to measure progress over the short-term and long-term, and priority strategies to help reach these goals; and

WHEREAS, the City of Durham, in its implementation of the Sustainability Roadmap and the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and Local Action Plan, has demonstrated philosophical and organizational alignment with steps required to transition to renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, in June 2018, the City Council adopted the Strategic Plan Goal 5 – *"Sustainable Natural and Built Environment"*, which calls on the City to "guide equitable, efficient and environmentally sound investments in the City's built and green infrastructure assets"; and

WHEREAS, in October 2018, Governor Roy Cooper signed an executive order, *"North Carolina's Commitment to Address Climate Change and Transition to a Clean Energy Economy"*, which states that North Carolina will honor the 2015 Paris Agreement goals and the state's

commitment to the United States Climate Alliance, and requires the state to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to 40% below 2005 levels by 2025; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DURHAM THAT:

1. The City of Durham endorses developing a fundable action plan towards carbon neutrality in City operations by 2040 as called for in the adopted City of Durham Roadmap To Sustainability.
2. The City of Durham renews its commitment to continue efforts in its own operations, policies, and guidelines towards renewable energy, sustainability, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, energy efficiency, and the reduction of fossil fuel use through fiscally responsible budget expenditures.
3. The City of Durham calls on the United States Government, State of North Carolina, North Carolina Utilities Commission and other utilities to work with local governments, the North Carolina General Assembly, and the Governor's Office to develop and implement a strategy to achieve a transition from fossil fuels to clean, renewable energy for all energy sectors by 2050.
4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.