



TOWN OF KNIGHTDALE

950 Steeple Square Court
Knightdale, NC 27545
KnightdaleNC.gov

RESOLUTION #21-03-17-002

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A TRANSITION TO CLEAN ENERGY AT THE LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL LEVEL

WHEREAS, climate change is expected to increasingly impact North Carolina's temperatures, precipitation, and sea level with harmful consequences in coming years; and

WHEREAS, nineteen of the twenty hottest years on record have occurred in the twenty-first century, with 2016 and 2020 nearly tied as the hottest years on record; and

WHEREAS, an increase in the global average temperature has, and will continue to have, major adverse impacts by the use of fossil fuels on both natural and human-made environments due to longer, more intense heat waves and prolonged droughts, increasing the likelihood of wildfires, more days with extreme rainfall, disruptive sea level rise, ocean acidification, and an increasing risk in the spread of infectious diseases; and

WHEREAS, low-income communities and communities of color in North Carolina and the United States are inordinately exposed to pollution from fossil fuel power plants that cause serious health problems such as cancer and asthma, and to coal ash from coal-fired power plants; and

WHEREAS, low-income communities and communities of color in North Carolina need to be empowered and have access to educational tools and an awareness of climate issues; and

WHEREAS, clean energy is defined as energy that produces zero emissions, is renewable when derived from ongoing natural processes that rapidly replenish, and is sustainably collected from sources such as solar, wind, geothermal and other approaches that may be included after being evaluated for sustainability and environmental justice implications; and

WHEREAS, studies completed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Risky Business Project, Duke University, and others, point to the severe economic costs of climate change and the continuing use of fossil fuel, estimating billions of dollars a year in costs nationally and trillions globally; and

WHEREAS, a Stanford University and University of California-Davis study concludes the United States energy supply could be based entirely on renewable energy by the year 2050 using current technologies and 80% renewable energy by 2030 while creating numerous jobs; and

WHEREAS, leading economists, policy experts, and business leaders conclude that transitioning to a clean energy economy would create millions of green jobs nationally, improve living standards, and boost economic growth; and

WHEREAS, municipalities, organizations, businesses, and academic institutions throughout the world have set a goal to achieve carbon or climate neutrality by 2050 or earlier; and

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors passed a resolution in 2017 supporting 100% clean renewable energy community-wide for cities by 2035; and

WHEREAS, the following North Carolina municipalities and counties have passed resolutions supporting a goal of 100 percent renewable energy for all energy sectors by 2050 for the State of North Carolina and the United States: City of Charlotte, City of Durham, Town of Boone, Watauga County, Town of Sylva, Buncombe County, City of Asheville, Town of Webster, Chatham County, Orange County, Durham County, Wake County, Town of Canton, Town of Clyde, Town of Chapel Hill, Town of Hillsborough, Macon County, Town of Franklin, Town of Apex, Town of Pittsboro and the Town of Waynesville; and

WHEREAS, over 600 American colleges and universities have made a commitment to reduce greenhouse gases, including Appalachian State University, Blue Ridge Community College, Carteret Community College, Catawba College, Central Carolina Community College, Davidson College, Duke University, Elizabeth City State University, Fayetteville State University, Guilford College, North Carolina Central University, Queens University of Charlotte, Southeastern Community College, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, University of North Carolina at Pembroke, Wake Technical Community College, and Warren Wilson College; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina now produces over 6 gigawatts of solar power, ranking it second nationally; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina has more offshore wind energy potential than any other Atlantic state.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Knightdale endorses the following:


SECTION 1. The Town of Knightdale, the State of North Carolina and the United States shall establish a transition from fossil fuels to clean energy by 2050 or sooner and shall protect the Earth, the citizens of Knightdale, and future generations from the adverse effects of climate change.

SECTION 2. The Town of Knightdale petitions the State of North Carolina and the US Congress to enact legislation to support Knightdale's transition to clean energy. This includes economic incentives, such as outlined in H.R. 763, Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, and other federal and state policies that will facilitate the Town of Knightdale in achieving clean energy.

SECTION 3. This resolution is effective upon adoption.

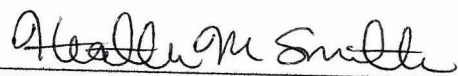
This the 17th day of March, 2021.

BY: _____



Jessica Day, Mayor

ATTEST: _____



Heather M. Smith, Town Clerk