

Resolution No. 10-17

RESOLUTION: To Support Increasing Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard law to 50 Percent by 2030, Investing in Clean Energy Workforce Development Projects, and Increasing State Funding for Clean Energy Businesses Owned by Minorities, Women and Veterans

WHEREAS, a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) is a tool intended to incentivize new and clean sources of renewable energy, promote green jobs and economic development, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other hazardous air and water pollution;

WHEREAS, Maryland's RPS, enacted in May 2004 and revised numerous times since, requires electricity suppliers in the state to procure a minimum portion of their retail electricity sales through eligible renewable energy sources;

WHEREAS, in February 2017, Maryland increased the RPS goal to 25 percent of retail electricity sales by 2020;

WHEREAS, electricity production accounted for 29 percent of 2015 greenhouse gas emissions in the United States, the largest of any economic sector;

WHEREAS, Maryland is a coastal state with 3,000 miles of tidal shoreline, thus making it one of the states most vulnerable to the impacts of sea level rise caused by greenhouse gas emissions that fuel climate change. Climate change will cause more severe storms, increased flooding, more extreme heat and droughts, and other detrimental impacts;

WHEREAS, increasing Maryland's RPS to 50 percent by 2030 would reduce 8.1 million metric tons of carbon dioxide annually, which is the carbon equivalent to taking 1.7 million cars off the road each year;

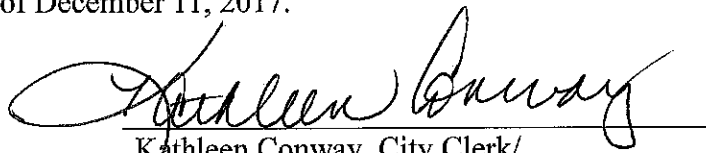
WHEREAS, increasing Maryland's RPS to 50 percent by 2030 would support workforce development programs to train those across the economic spectrum for careers in the renewable energy industry and related economic sectors while increasing the state's gross domestic product as a result of the construction of new Maryland-based renewable energy projects;

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council has a strong legacy of commitments to climate leadership, including signing on to the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement (2006), authorizing the City to join the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) (2007), approving the Strategy for a Sustainable Rockville to make Rockville more sustainable and environmentally sensitive (2007), adopting a resolution to become a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Green Power Community (2011), adopting a resolution to participate in the Sustainable Maryland Certified Program (2012), adopting a resolution to enroll as a Maryland Smart Energy Community and establish a 15 percent energy efficiency goal and 20 percent renewable energy goal for municipal facilities and operations (2013), establishing a Mayor and Council priority initiative for the 2016-2019 term to create a community climate action plan, and adopting a resolution to support the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement (2017);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND, that the Mayor and Council of Rockville hereby declares its support for the General Assembly of Maryland to:

1. Increase Maryland's RPS law for electricity to 50 percent renewable energy by 2030;
2. Invest in clean-energy workforce development while targeting economically distressed communities and individuals who have historically experienced barriers to employment; and
3. Increase funding for investment capital and loans to help minority-, woman-, and veteran-owned businesses enter and grow within the renewable energy industry.
4. Phase out incentives for incineration of trash under Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) law.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council at its meeting of December 11, 2017.



Kathleen Conway, City Clerk/
Director of Council Operations