

September 2019

Clean Air

Carolina



**100% RENEWABLE
RESOLUTION
TOOLKIT** Mecklenburg

100% Renewable Resolution

Thank you for considering the adoption of a 100% Renewable Resolution. These non-binding resolutions are key to making the will of our people, cities, and counties heard by shifting our electric grid away from dirty fuels.

Climate change is real and requires broad action now. We are already feeling its impacts in North Carolina. Last century we typically saw about a month of days with a high of 90°F or more. Later this century, we can expect half of the year to be in the 90s. Rising temperatures degrade air quality and increase the potency of allergens in pollen, resulting in severe respiratory problems. They also increase the incidence of heat-related illnesses, especially among vulnerable populations like children, the elderly, outdoor workers, and athletes who train or compete outdoors.

In addition to slow, gradual changes, climate change can also manifest in sudden and severe weather events. Just last year North Carolina bore the brunt of Hurricanes Florence and Michael, which killed dozens of people, caused millions of dollars in property damage, and left behind conditions that exacerbate health problems for some of North Carolina's most vulnerable populations.

We can address these threats directly by overhauling our current electric grid. According to the 2018 Greenhouse Gas Inventory from the NC Department of Environmental Quality, our electric sector accounted for 35.1% of all GHG emissions in the state, the single greatest source of emissions. We must act immediately to shift our electric sector away from dirty fuels and towards clean, renewable resources that will help us combat climate change and its harmful economic and health impacts.

We hope these materials will demonstrate the power of this resolution as a tool for transitioning to a cleaner future. We also want you to know that you are not alone in this fight. Seven counties and 16 cities in North Carolina have already passed 100% renewable resolutions. And across the U.S. more than 120 cities, 11 counties, and six states and territories have passed 100% renewable resolutions. By enacting this resolution you will join a growing movement in North Carolina and across the country.

Please let Clean Air Carolina be a resource to you in your efforts. We are always available to discuss the issue, the messaging, and the strategy around passing 100% renewable resolutions and their benefits to your community.



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Key Messages

These messages are adaptable to your specific community and needs. The messages below from EcoAmerica, Lake Research Partners, and ASO Communications have proven to be effective.

We are ready for climate action



- 67% of Americans believe it will improve health.
- 66% of Americans believe it will help the economy.
- 75% of Americans believe it is their individual responsibility to do something about climate change.
- 73% of Americans feel that state governments are responsible for doing something about climate change.
- 62% of Americans feel that local communities are responsible for doing something about climate change.
- 88% of Americans believe the U.S. should produce more wind and solar energy over other types of energy.

We support proactive climate-friendly solutions nationally.

- 67% of Americans want to spend more government money on developing solar and wind power.
- 66% of Americans favor spending government money to develop alternative fuel sources for automobiles.
- 79% of voters think expanding the use of renewable energy is an important objective for U.S. infrastructure investments.



Key Messages

We support proactive climate-friendly solutions locally.



In the Mecklenburg County area:

- **87% support funding research into renewable energy sources.**
- 74% support requiring fossil fuel companies to pay a carbon tax.
- 69% support requiring utilities to produce 20% electricity from renewable sources.
- 84% support providing tax rebates for energy-efficient vehicles or solar panels.
- **63% think local officials should do more to address global warming.**

A community led message

The following message comes from EcoAmerica and has been dial tested for its effectiveness. Please feel free to use and adapt this message in part or full:

We all want to live in the best place for our families.

And communities across America are learning that smart investments in sustainable energy like wind and solar provide a healthier environment, attract new business, create jobs, and build stronger communities.

Right now, in our own communities, we can reduce pollution, improve our health, and create new jobs that can't be outsourced, by producing and using clean energy.

We can protect our city by leaving dirty fuel sources behind.

A community with sustainable solutions is the place I want to call home.

Replace these Words and Phrases

The following words and phrases should be replaced based on numerous polls and dial testing. These have been collected from EcoAmerica, Lake Research Partners, ASO Communications, and others:

Replace	Embrace	Because
Dirty energy, fossil fuel energy	Dirty fuels, out-of-date fuels, outdated fuels	<i>Pairing “dirty” with “fuel” ties together oil, coal, and gas, which need to be burned to create energy, and helps emphasize clean, healthy alternatives. References to the old versus the new work with those who can be persuaded.</i>
Protects the environment	Best place for our families	<i>It makes the solution more about the audience. “Family” is an inclusive term regardless of whether the audience has children.</i>
Stop/mitigate/slow down climate change	Create healthy and safe communities, protect our families’ and children’s health	<i>Focusing on positive outcomes and personal benefits motivates voters. Eliminating the undesirable effects of climate change does not. Americans want solutions and a positive future.</i>
Good for the economy	Good for Wilmington, good for people	<i>National “economy” is too broad and abstract for voters; they are more activated on local communities and personal wellbeing.</i>
America is leading, America is the best country on earth	Low-cost, reliable wind and solar power are here now, American innovation, America has done it before and can do it again	<i>Assertions of primacy ring false. Reminders of past American-made innovations make new ones seem plausible, particularly when cited. These concepts invoke widely held values of hard work and ingenuity.</i>

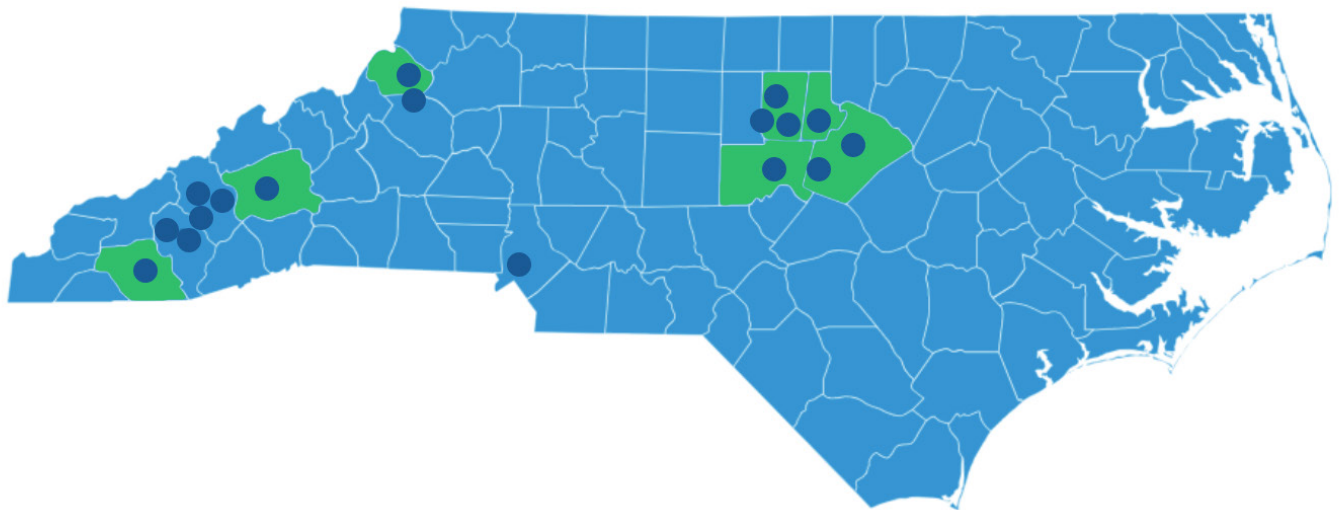
Key Talking Points

- **Climate change is already affecting our community.** Severe weather events, droughts, community health impacts, and increased energy bills threaten our community. This is why we must act. (This statement can be specifically tailored to climate impacts seen locally.)
- **The greatest action on climate begins with us.** We have the power to make a difference that will benefit our environment, our economy, and our community.
- **Some groups in our city are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including children, the elderly, the sick and poor, and disadvantaged communities.** Our efforts to stop climate-related pollution help all of these groups live better, healthier lives.
- **When we reduce fossil-fuel pollution, it improves the health and security of our community.** We can slow the rising temperatures that are changing weather patterns and causing more intense storms and heat waves, which in turn affect food and energy prices, as well as threaten our city infrastructure and the health and safety of our families.
- **Our community is blessed with determined and qualified leaders who want to lead on climate.** Faith, higher education, business, health, and community leaders must and have begun to collaborate on community-based climate solutions.
- **Investing in climate solutions means investing in our community.** By taking action, we can be prepared for climate impacts, enhance our community, create good local jobs, and make our neighborhoods more attractive places to live in.

You Are Not Alone

The 100% renewable resolution represents a movement across the U.S. and North Carolina. In our state, seven counties and 16 cities have passed 100% renewable resolutions, most recently Durham County and City.

This two-year effort places the county and city in agreement on the issue and helps to pave the path towards a more renewable future.



North Carolina cities with 100% Renewable Resolutions

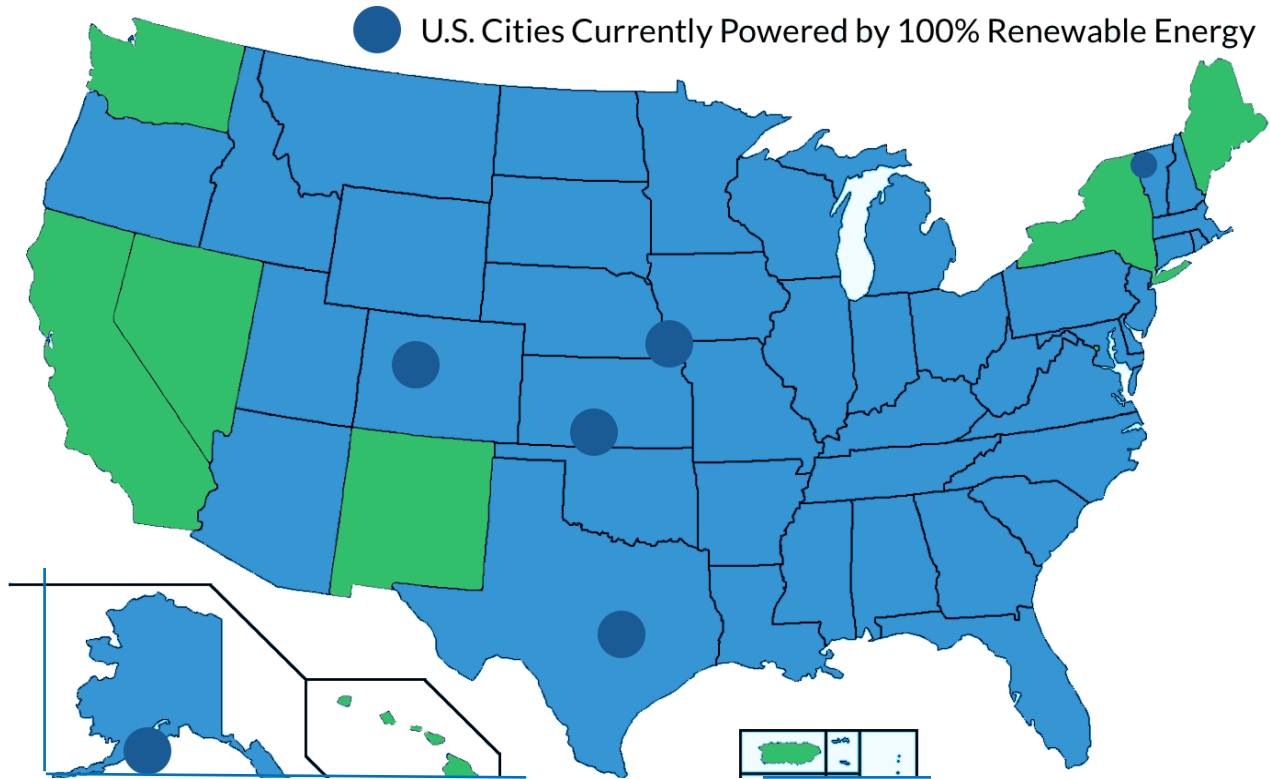
Apex	Boone	Charlotte*	Franklin	Sylva
Asheville	Canton	Clyde	Hillsborough	Waynesville
Blowing Rock	Carrboro	Durham	Pittsboro	Webster
			Raleigh*	

North Carolina counties with 100% Renewable Resolutions

Buncombe	Durham	Wake
Chatham	Macon	Watauga
	Orange	

*Charlotte's & Raleigh's Sustainable & Resilient Resolution calls for 100% of energy used by its buildings and fleet to come from zero emission sources by 2030 and strives for dramatic greenhouse gas reductions in all sectors by 2050.

Across the U.S. more than 132 cities, 15 counties, and 9 states and territories have passed 100% renewable resolutions. In addition, six cities have already transitioned their grid to 100% renewable energy.



U.S. Cities Currently Powered by 100% Renewable Energy

By the standards of the Sierra Club's Ready for 100 Campaign

Powered by 100% Renewable Energy means: "A community is powered with 100% renewable energy when the amount of energy generated from renewable energy sources in the community (or brought into it) equals or exceeds 100% of the annual energy consumed within the community."

Aspen, CO

Burlington, VT

Georgetown, TX

Greensburg, KS

Kodiak Island, AK

Rock Port, MO

U.S. States & Territories Committed to 100% Renewable Energy

- California - 2045 target, 100% zero-carbon electricity, at least 60% renewable mandate
- District of Columbia - 2032 target, 100% renewable mandate
- Hawaii - 2045 target, 100% renewable electricity mandate
- Maine - 2050 target, 100% renewable electricity goal
- Nevada - 2050 target, 100% carbon free electricity
- New Mexico - 2050 target, 100% zero-carbon electricity
- New York - 2040 target, 100% carbon-free electricity
- Puerto Rico - 2050 target, 100% renewable electricity mandate
- Washington - 2045 target, 100% clean energy



Resources

EcoAmerica. Let's Talk Communities & Climate. <https://ecoamerica.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/ea-lets-talk-communities-and-climate-web.pdf>

Climate Nexus. Climate Change Public Opinion & Messaging Guide 2019. https://www.climateadvocacylab.org/system/files/ClimatePolling_Report2019.pdf

Sample Resolution Text

Below is the standard language most of the cities and counties in North Carolina have used. Please feel free to use this language in support of a 100% renewable resolution.

RESOLUTION OF CITY OF MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NC IN SUPPORT OF A LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL GOAL OF 100% CLEAN ENERGY BY 2040 AND THE CREATION OF GREEN JOBS

WHEREAS, climate change has increased the global average surface temperature by over 1.0 degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit) since 1880; and

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

WHEREAS, climate change and global average temperature increases are primarily due to human-caused fossil fuels emissions, including coal, oil and natural gas, according to the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, National Academy of Sciences, American Meteorological Society, United States Environmental Protection Agency, United States Department of Defense, and numerous other leading scientific, academic and governmental authorities both in the United States and internationally; and

WHEREAS, a final agreement of the United Nations Conference of Parties (COP21), which included the United States and a total of 195 nations, was reached in Paris, France on December 12, 2015, that states the aim is to "holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels" and entered into force on November 4, 2016; and

WHEREAS, scientists have concluded the concentration of carbon dioxide, the leading greenhouse gas, in the Earth's atmosphere is currently and consistently over 400 parts per million (ppm) and will likely stay above this level for the indefinite future for the first time in millions of years; and

WHEREAS, sixteen of the seventeen hottest years on record have occurred in the twenty-first century and 2016 is the hottest year on record; and

WHEREAS, an increase in the global average temperature is having and will continue to increasingly have major adverse impacts, if not stopped by eliminating the use of fossil fuels, on both the natural and human-made environments due to longer, more intense heat waves, prolonged droughts, spread of infectious diseases, rising sea levels, ocean acidification, wildfires, and more intense and frequent extreme weather events; and

WHEREAS, these physical effects are expected to lead to water scarcity, food insecurity, increasing numbers of refugees, increased poverty, and the mass extinction of species; 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 continuing use of fossil fuel, estimating billions of dollars a year in costs nationally and trillions globally; and

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

WHEREAS, low-income communities and communities of color in North Carolina and the United States are inordinately exposed to pollution, that causes serious health problems such as cancer and asthma, from fossil fuels, including the dirtiest coal-fired power plants which produce coal ash, and need to be empowered and have access to educational tools and an awareness of climate issues; and

WHEREAS, a Stanford University and University of California-Berkeley 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 green jobs; 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 in 2017 passed a resolution 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, Town of Boone, Watauga County, Town of Sylva, Buncombe County, City of Asheville, Town of Webster, City of Durham Chatham County, Orange County, Durham County, Wake County, Town of Canton, Town of Clyde, Town of Carrboro, Town of Hillsborough, Macon County, Town of Franklin, and the Town of Waynesville;

WHEREAS, over 100 American municipalities and counties outside North Carolina have committed to some version of a goal of 100% renewable energy including Atlanta, St. Petersburg, Las Vegas, Sarasota, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, San Diego, Salt Lake City, Seattle, Honolulu, Santa Barbara, San Jose, Aspen, Cleveland, Denver, Minneapolis, St. Louis, St. Paul, Taos, Orlando, among others;

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;

WHEREAS, North Carolina installed 1,140 MW of solar electric capacity in 2015, ranking it second nationally; nearly \$1.7 billion was invested on solar installations in North Carolina, a 159% increase over the previous year; there are currently more than 200 solar companies at work throughout the value chain in North Carolina, the state companies employing some 6,000 people; North Carolina ranks third in the nation in installed solar capacity, enough to power 260,000 homes; and solar photovoltaic system prices in the U.S. have dropped by 66% since 2010; Whereas, North Carolina has more offshore wind energy potential than any other Atlantic state;

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Sixth Assessment Report recommended a global goal of achieving near zero greenhouse gas emissions or below by 2040, which is necessary to stabilize the global average temperature to avoid climate catastrophe;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Mecklenburg County endorses the following:

SECTION 1. Mecklenburg County, the State of North Carolina and the United States shall establish a transition from fossil fuels to 100% clean renewable energy for all energy sectors by 2040 or sooner to avoid climate catastrophe, to promote job creation and economic growth, and to protect the Earth for current and future generations from climate catastrophe.

SECTION 2. This resolution is effective upon adoption.

Durham Resolution Text

The City of Durham chose to shift their text to a longer and more comprehensive version of the previous resolution. This text was drafted after Durham County had passed their 100% renewable energy resolution and after the consultation and cooperation of the General Services Department of the City and the Environmental Affairs Board, which is a joint Board between the City and the County.

Please feel free to adapt this stronger version of the resolution that helps to bridge the need for renewable energy resolutions across the state and the country.

RESOLUTION OF THE DURHAM CITY COUNCIL SUPPORTING A TRANSITION TO RENEWABLE ENERGY, THE CREATION OF GREEN JOBS, AND A FEDERAL PRICE ON CARBON

Whereas, climate change is real, it is affecting our community now, and the choices we make today will affect future generations;

Whereas, an increase in the global average temperature, if not stopped, will have major adverse impacts on both the natural and human-made environments due to longer, more intense heat waves, prolonged droughts, rising sea levels, ocean acidification, and more intense and frequent extreme weather events;

Whereas, these physical effects are expected to lead to water scarcity, food insecurity, increasing numbers of refugees, increased poverty, and mass extinctions of species;

Whereas, low-income communities and communities of color in North Carolina and the United States are disproportionately exposed to hazardous pollutants released by fossil fuel burning that can lead to serious health problems such as cancer and asthma exacerbation;

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;

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;

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

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 Durham to this agreement going forward;

Whereas former Mayor William V. “Bill” Bell committed Durham to upholding the commitments of the Paris Agreement through the Mayors National Climate Action Agenda;

Whereas, the City of Durham’s Strategic Plan Goal 5 is “Thoughtful planning and operations that ensure the long-term viability of the City’s infrastructure, facilities, and environment”;

Whereas, in 2007, the City of Durham and Durham County became the first local governments in the state of North Carolina to adopt a Greenhouse Gas and Criteria Air Pollutant Emissions Inventory and Local Action Plan for Emission Reductions which calls for a 30% reduction from 2005 emission levels by 2030 for the community and a 50% reduction from 2005 emission levels for local government operations;

Whereas, the City of Durham, in its implementation of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and Local Action Plan, and the 2018 Roadmap to Sustainability, has demonstrated philosophical and organizational alignment with steps required to transition to renewable energy;

Whereas, North Carolina ranks second in the nation in installed solar electricity capacity and has more offshore wind energy potential than any Atlantic state;

Whereas, as of January 2019, eleven cities and towns and seven counties in North Carolina, and more than 100 localities in the United States, have already resolved to transition to clean energy as proposed below;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Durham City Council that:

SECTION 1: The City of Durham, North Carolina shall establish a plan and work to achieve a transition from fossil fuel-powered operations to 100% clean, renewable energy by December 31, 2050 and 80% by 2030, to build a more resilient community, to promote job creation and sustainable economic growth, and to protect our local community and the Earth for current and future generations. This commitment shall aspire to transition all energy sectors in City operations in an economically responsible and technologically feasible manner.

Clean, renewable energy is defined as energy derived from ongoing natural processes that rapidly replenish, and is sustainably collected from renewable sources such as solar, wind, and geothermal. Other approaches may be included after being evaluated for sustainability and environmental justice implications. Energy efficiency will continue to be an important part of our approach by minimizing the amount of energy used overall.

The City firmly commits to achieving equity, affordability, and access for all members of the community in the transition to renewable energy. Furthermore, we commit to a transparent and inclusive process for planning and implementation, ensuring that the public has an opportunity to participate as the City develops and adopts a transition plan.

To achieve this transition, the City will work with surrounding communities to achieve aligned clean energy and equity goals and advocate for necessary policy and regulatory changes at the state, regional, and federal level.

SECTION 2: The City calls on the state of North Carolina:

To establish a transition from fossil fuels to 100% clean renewable energy for all energy sectors by 2050 and 80% clean renewable energy for all energy sectors by 2030.

For Governor Roy Cooper to establish a Governor's Work Group to help local government partner with the state to achieve this goal.

For the North Carolina General Assembly to enact policies and budgetary decisions that support a sustainable and clean energy economy for our state.

To strengthen the energy building code for new and renovated buildings and incentivize energy efficiency for existing buildings.

SECTION 3: The City calls on Duke Energy, other utilities, and the NC Utility Commission to work with local governments, the NC General Assembly, and the Governor's Office to develop and implement a strategy to achieve the goals laid out in Sections 1 and 2. As nearly all City electricity is supplied by Duke Energy, it is imperative that our electric utility show leadership by aggressively increasing the percentage of renewable energy in the state.

SECTION 4: The City calls on the federal government to establish a national transition from fossil fuels to 100% clean renewable energy for all energy sectors by 2050 and 80% clean renewable energy for all energy sectors by 2030.

To facilitate and accelerate this transition, the City urges our Congressional representatives to support federal fee-and-dividend carbon legislation that levies an annually increasing revenue-neutral fee on the carbon in fossil fuels at the point of production and importation that would be sufficient to:

Encourage individuals and corporations to produce and use less fossil fuels;

Make the transition from fossil fuels less onerous to consumers and to the economy by returning all the revenues gained from the fee to Americans on an equitable basis;

Reduce US CO₂-equivalent emissions to 40% of 1990 levels by 2020;

Encourage similar actions by other nations trading with the United States.



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