

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-45

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A COMMUNITY 24X7 CARBON-FREE ELECTRICITY GOAL FOR THE CITY OF WINDSOR HEIGHTS

WHEREAS, the City of Windsor Heights is responsible for promoting the public health and safety of its residents, including access to clean air, clean water, and a livable environment; and is committed in those endeavors to actions that foster a clean energy future for the City of Windsor Heights; and

WHEREAS, the transition to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, carbon-free electricity will provide a range of benefits including but not limited to reduced greenhouse gas emissions, improved air quality, enhanced public health, business attraction, a thriving local economy, increased resilience, and energy security; and

WHEREAS, there is scientific consensus regarding the reality of climate change and the connection between human activity, especially the combustion of fossil fuels that create greenhouse gasses, and the warming of the planet; and

WHEREAS, the National Centers for Environmental Information of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) projects that under a higher emissions pathway, historically unprecedented warming is projected during this century; and

WHEREAS, the NOAA projects that the intensity of future droughts will increase, greatly affecting Iowa's agriculture industry, as rising temperatures will increase evaporation rates and the rate of soil moisture loss; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources found that climate change in Iowa has resulted in increased frequency of precipitation extremes that lead to flooding, long-term winter temperatures have increased six times more than summer temperatures, nighttime temperatures have increased more than daytime temperatures since 1970, and increased soil erosion and water runoff; and

WHEREAS, the City of Windsor Heights has experienced the effects of climate change locally through increased temperatures, changes in water systems, extreme weather events such as flooding in 2010, 2015, and 2018, the Derecho of August 10, 2020, and other disruptions that threaten our residents, economy, and overall quality of life; and

WHEREAS, inaction perpetuates inequity and ensures the burdens of climate hazards will be borne by the City's most marginalized and vulnerable residents; and

WHEREAS, the 2018 report of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) found that to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, there would need to be a 45% reduction of greenhouse gasses from 2010 levels by 2030 and a need to reach net-zero by 2050; and

WHEREAS, carbon-free energy resources paired with energy storage, and microgrids, where feasible, are important strategies to build disaster resilience into our communities and will assist with disaster recovery; ensuring equitable distribution of the benefits of these resources is imperative to adequately prepare for disasters, particularly those exacerbated by climate change; and

WHEREAS, a host of solutions exist to provide reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy while reducing demand and emissions, including but not limited to solar, wind, energy storage, geothermal, biomass, energy efficiency, demand control technologies, waste reduction, water systems technologies, and tree planting; and

WHEREAS, new and existing buildings must play a key role in reducing energy demand through smart building technologies, grid interaction, electrification, and efficiency, with residential, commercial, and industrial energy usage; and

WHEREAS, transportation advancements, including electric vehicles, intermodal transit, and pedestrian and bicycle-oriented streets offer solutions to limit harmful vehicle emissions, reduce congestion, and support vibrant neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the City of Windsor Heights relies on MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican) for electricity; and

WHEREAS, MidAmerican under its GreenAdvantage® program was certified to have delivered approximately 88.5% of its customers' electricity needs from renewable sources in 2021 while continuing to own and operate significant carbon-based generation in Iowa; and

WHEREAS, experts have estimated that MidAmerican customers could achieve significant savings by replacing MidAmerican's coal plants with a diverse mix of cost-effective carbon-free energy, energy storage, and energy efficiency; and

WHEREAS, a policy to require carbon-free energy every hour will ensure a true 100% clean energy future; and

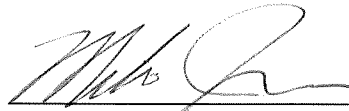
WHEREAS, many corporations value reliable, low-cost, carbon-free energy when considering sites for business retention and expansion, such as data centers, distribution, and manufacturing facilities, making clean energy a valuable tool for economic development; and

WHEREAS, the City can accelerate the local clean energy transition by partnering with stakeholders to support carbon-free energy resources and the City will continue to pursue options for renewable energy systems on government buildings and properties through ownership and Power Purchase Agreements, develop public electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and phase in electric fleet vehicles, non-road equipment, and public transportation; and

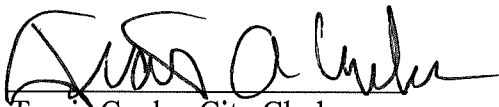
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINDSOR HEIGHTS, IOWA: that the City hereby commits to a community-wide goal of achieving 100% 24x7 electricity from carbon-free sources by 2030.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager and his designees are directed to work with utility partners, businesses, residents, and community stakeholders to identify a collaborative approach to achieve the emissions targets and energy goals with meaningful benchmarks and milestones between now and the target years referenced in this resolution. This collaboration shall include, but is not limited to, efforts to transition the City's fleet to electric vehicles, implement electric vehicle charging stations at city facilities and encourage energy efficiency to reduce energy consumption and use.

Passed and approved this 17th day of October, 2022.



Mike Jones, Mayor

Attest: 
Travis Cooke, City Clerk