

CITY OF WORCESTER

- WHEREAS: Electricity generation produces more harmful air pollution than any other single human activity, and the emissions caused by current methods of electricity generation trigger asthma attacks and contribute to other respiratory illnesses, heart disease and cancer, as well as contribute significantly to global warming; and
- WHEREAS: The City of Worcester stands in the path of airborne pollution from power plants, and Worcester County has received a failing grade for ozone pollution from the American Lung Association; and
- WHEREAS: Worcester County has over 67,000 adults and children with asthma, and asthma attacks can be triggered by unhealthy levels of pollution; and
- WHEREAS: The U.S. energy needs are expected to grow by 33% over the next 20 years, and clean, renewable technologies can be generated and distributed right in the U.S.; and
- WHEREAS: Clean, renewable energy resources – such as wind and solar – are constantly replenishing themselves, do not cause the buildup of global warming gases and other pollutants and, if properly managed, will be available to serve our energy needs forever; and
- WHEREAS: Power plant emissions can be reduced in a cost-effective manner that enhances economic development by applying currently available energy efficiency technologies and renewable energy programs that save money, create jobs and strengthen local economies; and
- WHEREAS: The City of Worcester has joined the Cities for Climate Protection campaign and is dedicated to reducing air pollution and global warming emissions; and
- WHEREAS: Mayor Murray and City Manager O'Brien have convened an energy Task Force to research these issues of energy and pollution and to make recommendations for Worcester's wise energy use; and
- WHEREAS: A clean energy option exists for consumers in Worcester who are able to sign up for clean energy on their electric bill; Now, Therefore, Be It
- RESOLVED: That the City of Worcester, with a commitment to the health of its citizens, commit to making at least 20% of its electricity purchases come from clean, renewable sources by the year 2010, with clean energy purchases beginning in 2005 and increasing over time to meet the 2010 goal; Be It Further
- RESOLVED: That the City of Worcester shall achieve this goal by, at a minimum, purchasing enough clean energy certificates to account for 20% of its power consumption; Be It Further
- RESOLVED: That the City Council encourage the city administration to undertake further energy efficiency and conservation measures; Be it Further
- RESOLVED: That the City Council shall direct Mayor Murray's and City Manager O'Brien's Energy Task Force to investigate options for meeting the 20% by 2010 goal, including clean energy installations and possible funding opportunities; Be It Further
- RESOLVED: That the City Council encourages residents and businesses to choose the clean energy option on their electricity bill and will declare a Clean Energy Day to announce the City's commitment to 20% by 2010 and raise awareness of the clean energy option.

In City Council

March 29, 2005

Resolution adopted.

A Copy. Attest:

David J. Rushford
David J. Rushford
City Clerk

Introduced in City Council by Mayor Timothy P. Murray