

RESOLUTION NO. 17R-2648

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SARASOTA, FLORIDA FOR A TRANSITION TO 100 PERCENT RENEWABLE, ZERO EMISSION ENERGY SOURCES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 100 PERCENT RENEWABLE ENERGY INITIATIVE; PROVIDING FOR READING OF THIS RESOLUTION BY TITLE ONLY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Sarasota is a coastal community on the front lines of the environmental, economic and public health impacts of climate change stemming from sea level rise, storm surge, flooding, and rising temperatures; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sarasota seeks a healthy, sustainable future with less toxic pollution threatening residents and more economic growth opportunities for workers; and

WHEREAS, the transition to 100 percent renewable, zero emission energy sources, such as solar power, will improve air and water quality and protect public health, particularly for the most vulnerable across our community; and

WHEREAS, 100 percent renewable, zero emission energy sources as well as energy efficiency represent an enormous economic opportunity for City of Sarasota to create jobs in an emerging industry and expand prosperity for residents; and

WHEREAS, one out of every 50 new jobs added in the United States in 2016 was created by the solar industry; and

WHEREAS, 100 percent renewable, zero emission energy sources and energy efficiency now offer greater economic security, lower electricity costs, and an affordable energy solution for City of Sarasota residents; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Department of Energy, solar costs are down between 54 percent and 64 percent from 2008; and

WHEREAS, individuals, families, businesses, and institutions throughout the City of Sarasota seek greater energy freedom through the expansion of distributed 100 percent renewable, zero emission energy sources like rooftop solar; and

WHEREAS, business analysts have called Florida “the sleeping giant” of the solar industry; and

WHEREAS, in November 2016, the City of St. Petersburg became the first city in Florida to commit to transitioning to 100 percent renewable, zero emission energy sources; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sarasota has previously established a 35% community-wide greenhouse gas emission reduction goal by 2025, from a 2003 baseline; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sarasota has previously established a 35% municipal operations greenhouse gas emission reduction goal by 2025, from a 2003 baseline; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sarasota has established fast track permitting for private sector LEED certified buildings; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sarasota has entered into a “Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, and Energy Sustainability Agreement” with Florida Power and Light, as part of the 2010 Franchise Renewal; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sarasota has established that all new City buildings and major renovation projects shall use sustainable measures as outlined in LEED certification or "Alternative Compliance Pathways for Incentives"; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sarasota has established that all new urban expansion and infill developments shall use sustainable measures as outlined in LEED certification or "Alternative Compliance Pathways for Incentives"; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sarasota comprehensive plan stipulates that the City shall "actively pursue 100 percent renewable energy installations for City facilities"; and

WHEREAS, residents of the City of Sarasota and Sarasota County have recently formed a co-op to use their buying power to secure discounted prices for solar panels; and

WHEREAS, there is broad support for a just transition to 100 percent renewable, zero emission energy sources from City of Sarasota residents, business and institutions; and

WHEREAS, “renewable, zero emission energy” includes energy derived from solar, wind power sited in ecologically responsible ways, existing and low-impact hydroelectric, geothermal, and ocean/wave technology sources.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SARASOTA, FLORIDA:

Section 1. The City of Sarasota adopts a community-wide target of powering the City with 100 percent renewable, zero emission energy sources not later than 2045.

Section 2. The City of Sarasota adopts a target of powering municipal operations with 100 percent renewable, zero emission energy sources not later than 2030, including at least 50 percent by 2024.

Section 3. The City Commission of the City of Sarasota direct its Sustainability Manager to incorporate these targets into the City's Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation efforts and planning processes and to work with community stakeholders to devise implementation strategies.

Section 4. The City of Sarasota, in pursuit of these targets, will seek to build inclusive community leadership and policy engagement, promote equity in energy and resource costs and ownership of related technologies, generate sustainable economic and employment opportunities and mitigate related losses; and provide regional leadership to address equity in climate and energy.

Section 5. The City of Sarasota Sustainability Manager will report on progress to the City Commission towards these goals every two years, beginning in 2018.

Section 6. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of Sarasota upon reading by title only, after posting on the bulletin board at City Hall for at least three (3) days prior to adoption, as authorized by the Charter of the City of Sarasota this ____ day of June, 2017.

Shelli Freeland Eddie, Mayor

ATTEST:

Pamela M. Nadalini, MBA, CMC
City Auditor and Clerk

____ Shelli Freeland Eddie, Mayor
____ Liz Alpert, Vice Mayor
____ Commissioner Jennifer Ahearn-Koch
____ Commissioner Hagen Brody
____ Commissioner Willie Charles Shaw