

RESOLUTION NO. 2422
TOWNSHIP OF BUCKINGHAM
BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

**A RESOLUTION SETTING FORTH THE GOALS FOR BUCKINGHAM TOWNSHIP TO
USE 100% CLEAN, RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR ALL PURPOSES NO LATER THAN
2050.**

WHEREAS, Buckingham Township is committed to reducing our carbon footprint and protecting our environment; and

WHEREAS, for more than 40 years, and especially since 1995 when Buckingham approved a referendum to establish a township land-preservation program, becoming one of the first municipalities in Bucks County to do so, the residents and Board of Supervisors of Buckingham have demonstrated their commitment to environmental protection, a commitment that has garnered the overwhelming support of Buckingham voters and resulted in the permanent protection of 6113 acres of prime township land (including farms, parks, schools, open space in developments and land trust properties) as of July 2020; and

WHEREAS, Buckingham Township has created a wastewater system for those residents on our public wastewater system that utilizes sprayfields; an environmentally sound and sustainable method that recharges the groundwater; and

WHEREAS, the Buckingham Township Wastewater Systems preserves over 175 acres of open land, 40 acres in nursery stock and 32 wooded acres; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. government's November 2017 *Climate Science Special Report* states that "It is extremely likely that human activities are the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century"; and

WHEREAS, carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the primary greenhouse gas emitted by human activities, and there is a body of evidence that the rate at which climate change is occurring may be the result of the increase in the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, and combustion of fossil fuels for energy is the primary source of carbon dioxide emissions; and

WHEREAS, the extreme weather events associated with climate change have the immediate potential to test our infrastructure, emergency and social services; impact our food, water and energy supplies; disrupt services, commerce and quality of life; increase the cost of disaster relief, restoration and prevention; and result in a commensurate increase in the cost of services to pay for these effects; and

WHEREAS, Buckingham has demonstrated a commitment to reducing fossil-fuel energy in its municipal operations through the installation of cost-saving LED lighting in its street lights, an effort recognized as forward-looking in area presentations by the Sierra Club's Ready for 100 campaign; and

WHEREAS, Buckingham remains committed to being a community characterized by health, safety, livability, prosperity, and equity; it now recognizes that additional longer-term goals must be set and achieved to meet consensus worldwide goals; and

WHEREAS, a strategy for achieving a cost-effective, even cost-saving, energy source transition is through collaboration with other Bucks County energy leaders and participating in aggregated procurement contracts, such as Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) for regional wind and solar energy; and

WHEREAS, a renewable energy initiative can produce energy cost-savings for residents and local businesses while stimulating new economic activity and local jobs as well as make a significant contribution to reducing the township's GHG emissions;


Therefore, be it RESOLVED that:

- Buckingham Township will preserve the past and embrace the future by joining other leading municipalities to transition to 100% clean and renewable energy community-wide, and will set goals to complete this transition in the electricity sector by 2035 and in all energy sectors, including heat and transportation, by 2050;
- The Board of Supervisors will use the Buckingham Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC) as a valuable source of guidance in the creation of an energy transition plan for achieving these goals, the drafting of such plan to be completed within 24 months of the approval of this resolution and to include interim milestones, financial impacts, equity metrics and potential financing mechanisms;
- The Board of Supervisors will encourage all Buckingham residents to participate in the planning and implementation process;
- "Clean, renewable energy" will be defined as carbon-free and pollution-free energy generated sustainably from sources such as wind, solar, small hydro, tidal, and geothermal;

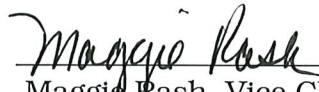
- Locally produced and distributed energy is prioritized whenever feasible for the resilience benefits it provides to the community;
- The Board of Supervisors calls on the County of Bucks and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to adopt codes and standards to increase the efficiency of buildings and appliances;
- The Board of Supervisors calls on the County of Bucks and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to set a goal to use 100% clean, renewable energy for all purposes no later than 2050;
- The Board of Supervisors calls on the County of Bucks and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to increase the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard to levels that put us on track to meet 100% clean and renewable energy goals.

RESOLVED this 28th day of October, 2020

**BUCKINGHAM TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**



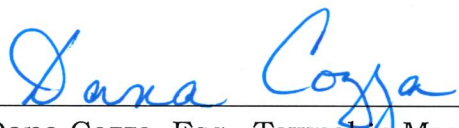
Jon Forest, Chairman



Maggie Rash, Vice Chairman



Paul Calderaio, Member

ATTEST: 
Dana Cozza, Esq., Township Manager