

**A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF
SCHUYLKILL TOWNSHIP, PA
IN SUPPORT OF A TRANSITION TO 100% CLEAN RENEWABLE ENERGY**

WHEREAS: The Board of Supervisors is committed to the health, safety, livability, prosperity, independence, and security of Schuylkill Township and its residents;

WHEREAS: Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the primary greenhouse gas (GHG) emitted by combustion of fossil fuels for energy, and the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has been increasing at an accelerated rate;

WHEREAS: The link between the use of fossil fuels and an increase in the effects of climate change has been extensively studied and is almost unanimously accepted as scientific fact, as reported in, but not limited to:

- The US government's November 2017 Climate Science Special Report which states that "It is extremely likely that human activities, especially emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs), are the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century;"

- The 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris which resulted in a consensus among 195 countries to reduce GHG emissions in order to limit the increase in global average temperatures to well below 2°C (3.6°F);

- A special report released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in October 2018 which warns that global warming is occurring faster than previously predicted, and expressed the need for urgent action to cut carbon pollution by 45% by 2030 in order to limit post-industrial global temperature rise to 1.5°C;

WHEREAS: Climate change and violent weather associated with the use of fossil fuels impose a strain on the Township's infrastructure, emergency, and social services; impact our access to food, water, and energy supplies; and heighten disruption of services, commerce, and quality of life; increase costs for disaster relief, restoration, and prevention; and result in a commensurate increase in taxes to pay for these services and address these effects;

WHEREAS: Adverse impacts associated with the procurement, development and use of fossil fuels pose immediate direct and indirect threats to the health, safety, livability, prosperity, independence, and security of all Schuylkill Township's current and future residents, workers, and visitors;

WHEREAS: Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf has signed a new executive order establishing statewide goals to reduce carbon pollution in Pennsylvania, which is contributing to climate change. The executive order states the commonwealth will work to achieve a 26 percent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2025 and an 80 percent reduction by 2050, from 2005 levels.

WHEREAS: Use of sources of renewable energy like wind, solar, and geothermal, combined with increased energy efficiency, will reduce fossil fuel consumption and slow climate change and its effects.

WHEREAS: Schuylkill Township is a member of the Phoenixville Regional Planning Committee (PRPC) which is revising its Comprehensive Plan which includes a chapter entitled "Energy Conservation and Sustainability Plan" that "focuses on methods of achieving greater efficiency and cleaner sources of energy generation for electricity, heating and transportation in order to reduce pollution, limit the depletion of and dependency on finite resources, and lessen the impacts of carbon-induced climate change."

WHEREAS: The combined efforts of the PRPC and other local municipalities in and around Chester County can accelerate a cost saving clean renewable energy transition in Schuylkill Township which can help protect the health, safety, livability, prosperity, independence, and security of Township residents;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Schuylkill Township Board of Supervisors commits to:

1. Cooperate with other municipalities, including municipal members of the Phoenixville Regional Planning Committee, in the regional and national movement to transition to 100% clean and renewable energy, with the specific desire to transition to 100% clean renewable electricity by 2035 and 100% renewable energy for heat and transportation by 2050; and
2. Provide support for commissioning a county or regional level committee and/or advisory council and/or consultant(s) and/or contractor(s) with the goal of drafting a clean energy transition plan for achieving these goals; and
3. Facilitate the drafting of a clean energy transition plan to include interim milestones, financial and equity incentives, potential financing mechanisms, and other metrics and requirements as determined by the Board of Supervisors in coordination and consultation with the Environmental Advisory Council; and
4. Define clean renewable energy as carbon-free and pollution-free energy generated sustainably from renewable sources such as wind, solar, small hydro, tidal, fuel cells, and geothermal; and
5. Prioritize locally produced and distributed energy whenever feasible for the many advantages it provides to the community; and
6. Encourage participation from Schuylkill Township stakeholders in the planning and implementation process; and

7. Investigate cooperative energy purchasing opportunities as part of any clean energy transition plan; and

8. Immediately begin to explore updating existing or adopting new codes, ordinances, standards and educational materials that promote the energy efficiency of existing homes and buildings; and

9. Immediately begin to explore updating existing or adopting new codes, ordinances, standards, and other legislative measures to require any new construction in the Township to be heated, cooled, and powered by 100% clean renewable energy; and

10. Call on the State of Pennsylvania to: set a goal to use 100% renewable energy for all purposes no later than 2050; adopt codes and standards to increase the efficiency of buildings and appliances; increase the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard to levels that put the Commonwealth on track to meet 100% renewable energy goals.