

**PATTON TOWNSHIP
CENTRE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-003

SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

A RESOLUTION OF THE SUPERVISORS OF PATTON TOWNSHIP, CENTRE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, PLEDGING A COMMITMENT TO ADVANCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 2020-1 OF THE CENTRE REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TO MITIGATE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND ADAPT TO CHANGING CLIMATE CONDITIONS.

PREAMBLE: Patton Township has been an active participant in the work leading to the Centre Region Council of Governments (COG) Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP). The township has a history of responsible environmental stewardship and is Sustainable Pennsylvania Certified which recognizes the policy and practice of sustainability as a way of operating to advance community prosperity.

WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has determined that Pennsylvania's temperatures have risen around 1.1°C (1.8°F) since the beginning of the 20th century and that temperatures in the 21st century have been higher than any other historical period; and

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service (NWS) has determined that the average annual precipitation in Pennsylvania has increased about 10% in the past 110 years, and NWS indicates that during that time period State College experienced a 70% increase in extreme rain events (greater than two inches); and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Auditor General reported that in 2018 climate-related costs to Pennsylvania totaled at least \$261 million; that number includes record-breaking floods and landslides that caused over \$125.7 million in infrastructure damages; and

WHEREAS, the Centre Region COG completed a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory and found that in 2016 the Region contributed 824,190 MTCO₂e (metric tons carbon dioxide equivalent); and

WHEREAS, 67% of the Centre Region GHG emissions came from energy consumption in 2016, and that energy is one of the largest operating costs that municipalities incur; and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change *Global Warming of 1.5°C Report*, the U.S. *Fourth National Climate Assessment*, and the *15th Global Risk Report of the World Economic Forum* all conclude that climate disruption is a present danger to human health, the environment, and the economy; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is part of the US Climate Alliance, which is a bipartisan coalition of 24 governors committed to holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and to pursuing GHG efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels in order to prevent catastrophic harm to people and ecological systems on which life depends;

WHEREAS, municipal actions taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase energy efficiency and protect the region from climate vulnerabilities provide multiple local benefits by decreasing air pollution, creating jobs, reducing energy expenditures, and saving money for the local government, businesses, and residents; and

WHEREAS, both the magnitude and speed needed to achieve GHG emission reductions necessary to prevent dangerous human-induced warming urgently requires all local government entities to cooperate with other levels of government, the private sector, educational institutions, agriculture, and others to rapidly develop strategies to reduce GHG emissions; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Article 1, Section 27 guarantees that, "The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of natural, scenic, historic, and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustees of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people;" and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection found Pennsylvania contributes approximately 1% of global GHG emissions, which, according to the Commonwealth's 2015 Pennsylvania Climate Impacts Assessment Report, is affecting agriculture, energy, human health, infrastructure, recreation, water quality, forests, and other ecosystems in Pennsylvania, and human health and ecological systems around the world; and

WHEREAS, green building practices and standards have been established, energy efficient buildings make communities more resilient, and the cost of alternative clean, renewable energy is reaching price parity with non-renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, the transition to 100 percent clean, renewable energy will promote employment opportunities and sustainable growth in Patton Township, the Centre Region, Centre County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, facilitate local control and ownership over energy options, and bring tangible benefits to low-income residents and others who have historically been disadvantaged by fossil fuel-based energy systems; and

WHEREAS, agriculture and forestry have played important roles in the Centre Region's economy and culture for generations, and are integral in sequestering carbon, providing additional ecosystem services, beauty, and recreation, as well as afford a high quality of life for people and our environment; and

WHEREAS, universities in Pennsylvania, including the Pennsylvania State University, provide jobs that research, support, and educate Pennsylvania's **clean**, renewable energy industry and conduct international, national, state-level, and local climate assessments and planning assistance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HERE RESOLVED that Patton Township shall support and advance the Centre Region Council of Governments Climate Action & Adaptation Plan developed by the Council's Sustainability Planner and its Technical Advisory Group under the guidance of the Climate Action and Sustainability Committee.

BE IT HERE FURTHER RESOLVED that in addition to the goals articulated by the CAAP, Patton township will strive to:

- 1) Transition to 100% clean, renewable energy for municipal operations by 2050 or before; and
- 2) Achieve reductions in GHG Emissions across the township as set forth in the plan; and
- 3) Engage peer governmental entities, non-governmental organizations, businesses, and universities to (i) raise awareness of climate change, (ii) identify and encourage courses of action to reduce the amount of GHG emissions, (iii) identify and encourage courses of action to lessen the impacts of changing climate conditions and (iv) embrace the opportunities of climate adaptation; and
- 4) Continue to lead by example to rapidly pursue these goals in a manner that is transparent, fair, and economically responsible; and
- 5) Encourage township residents, business, peer government entities, and non-governmental organizations to follow suit by enthusiastically promoting the township's steps toward impactful reductions in GHG Emissions; and
- 6) Encourage local projects and local impacts first, prior to making an investment out of the region to provide long-term benefits to the region; and
- 7) Promote "clean, renewable energy" to achieve the stated goals which includes energy produced from environmentally beneficial technologies. Technologies will be evaluated for carbon impact, public health, and environmental justice.

RESOLVED this 26th day of January, 2022.

PATTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Pamela Robb, Chair

ATTEST:



Douglas J. Erickson, Secretary

[SEAL]