



**CITY OF TRAVERSE CITY RESOLUTION
TO INCREASE RENEWABLE ENERGY AND
SUSTAINABILITY FOR THE CITY OF TRAVERSE CITY**

- Because, addressing energy use and climate change with renewable energy goals provides an opportunity for the City of Traverse City to move toward energy self-reliance and greater community resiliency; provide environmentally healthy and cheaper-to-operate buildings; encourage new economic development and local jobs; and support local renewable energy production; and
- Because, the City of Traverse City and its municipal utility, Traverse City Light & Power, have a history of leading on renewable energy, installing the first utility-scale wind turbine in the state in 1996, and developing the first community solar garden in the state in 2013; and
- Because, the City of Traverse City passed a 2011 Climate Action Plan with a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25% by 2012 with suggested measures including: green electricity purchase for Government Center and many energy efficiency measures within the City of Traverse City; and created a Green Team to implement this Plan but is no longer active; and
- Because, the City of Traverse City’s Master Plan includes objectives to “Recognize our responsibility for Climate Change and take rectifying action” and “create an energy plan that balances our demand for electricity with a supply of energy sources that have the lowest possible net-use of fossil-based carbon fuels.
- Because, at least 17 cities in the United States have set 100% renewable energy goals to date for the electricity use for municipal operations, including Grand Rapids, Michigan, and some of these cities have already met their 100% target; and
- Because, research by Stanford University and other sources demonstrate that in addition to climate benefits, shifting to 100% renewable energy creates jobs, boosts economic growth, keeps energy rates lower over time, and reduces pollution – which improves public health, saves lives, and reduces health care costs; and
- Because, surveys of Traverse City residents and businesses, including those completed by the Grand Vision Energy Network and Traverse City Light & Power (TCLP), have consistently found that the majority of respondents support more clean, renewable energy and more locally-generated energy, even if it means it would increase electric rates; and
- Because, Michigan Public Service Commission’s 2016 annual renewable energy report found that the combined cost of renewable energy and energy efficiency is less than any new generation, including new natural gas combined cycle plants, and

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that the cost of renewable energy contracts continues to show a downward pricing trend; and

Because, the Michigan Public Power Agency presented to Traverse City Light & Power Board in June 2016 and said that wind and solar power are the best sources of new energy generation now and into the foreseeable future, recommended that the City and TCLP purchase more renewable energy; and

Resolved, that the City of Traverse City does hereby commit to meet 100% of the electricity demand for City operations as reflected by the yearly total of all municipal electric meters, with clean, renewable energy sources (defined as wind, solar, geothermal, and/or landfill gas) by 2020; and be it further

Resolved, that the City of Traverse City set a goal to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by pursuing renewable energy and energy efficiency and/or other sustainability projects annually, with the goal of initiating at least two such projects per year from now until 2027; and be it further

Resolved, that the City of Traverse City will create an advisory “Green Team” within 60 days comprised of 6 to 10 people designated by the City Manager including a representative from the City Planning Commission, a representative from Traverse City Light & Power, a representative from Grand Traverse County, and community members, and charged with: 1) updating the 2011 Traverse City Climate Action Plan to include a 100% renewable energy goal, new GHG reduction goals, and recommended measures to achieve these goals; 2) recommending to the City Commission two renewable energy, energy efficiency and/or other sustainability projects to be implemented each year; 3) meeting regularly to implement these objectives and reporting progress annually to the City Commission; and 4) developing a plan for Traverse City to become carbon neutral before midcentury; and be it further

Resolved, that with the creation of the Traverse City “Green Team” the City of Traverse City Commission directs the City Manager to assign City staff to promote and further develop clean and renewable energy opportunities in conjunction with the “Green Team.”

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Traverse City, City Commission at its Regular Meeting held on December 19, 2016, in the Commission Chambers of the Governmental Center, 400 Boardman Avenue, Traverse City, Michigan.

Benjamin C. Marentette, MMC, City Clerk