

Dear City Councillors,

Please support resolution 18 in support of renewable municipal electricity. Yes, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, we must stop adding new fossil fuel infrastructure. This includes TransCanada's Keystone Pipeline but also the Kinder Morgan Pipeline being proposed in Massachusetts. (Has the Cambridge City Council opposed the Kinder Morgan Pipeline? I don't see our city listed among those who have: <http://www.massplan.org/local-governments-taking-action/>)

I would like to call your attention to a previous Policy Order Resolution from 2005 committing Cambridge to purchase 20% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2010. Worcester had also joined this campaign of 20% by 2010. Worcester is now up at 25% renewable municipal electricity. Worcester is purchasing their renewable power above the state RPS (Renewable Portfolio Standard) from Renewable Choice Energy. *My impression is that this purchase would be for RECs (Renewable Energy Certificates) that are not in the ISO-NE territory. Boston is also purchasing RECs through Renewable Choice Energy. While I am glad that these cities are purchasing wind RECs, I don't understand how these purchases are helping the current demand for electricity supply in Massachusetts.

** out of state voluntary RECs.*

Here in Massachusetts we benefit most by entering long term contracts for the production of new local (ISO-NE region) clean renewable power. For example, Harvard University entered a 10 year contract with the Town of Hull's municipal light department to purchase wind electricity.

Just for price comparison, Mass Energy's local renewable electricity offerings cost an additional 2.4-3.8 cents per kilowatt hour for residential customers. The City of Palo Alto CA will purchase RECs outside of ISO-NE at a cost of under 0.15 cents per kWhr, or a factor of 16 cheaper!

In summary, a long term purchase agreement of ISO-NE region clean renewable electricity will help diversify our power supply and stabilize costs better than the cheaper RECs outside of our region. And if Cambridge can't afford 100% local renewable power, then even 10% above the RPS will be more than I believe any other city is doing for the local supply. (I believe the current RPS is around 17%, so 27% would be in line with Worcester, but using the more beneficial local renewables.) As long as we are under imminent threat of a new pipeline, we are in urgent need of more renewables here, even if they cost more.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this very important issue.

Sincerely,
Michele Sprengnether
a Mother Out Front

31 Chilton St, #3, 02138 *p.s. I purchase renewable electricity for my home. 100%*

On June 6th, 2005, Cambridge City Council passed the following resolution, making us the second city in Massachusetts after Worcester to support the 20% renewable electricity campaign by 2010. The resolution commits Cambridge to purchasing 20% of its municipal electricity from new renewable sources by the year 2010.

June 2005 Resolution
Policy Order Resolution
O-4
AMENDED ORDER
IN CITY COUNCIL
June 6, 2005

COUNCILLOR DAVIS
MAYOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR SIMMONS
COUNCILLOR MURPHY
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
VICE MAYOR DECKER
COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR MAHER
COUNCILLOR REEVES

WHEREAS:

Electricity generation produces more harmful air pollution than any other single human activity and emissions caused by the current methods of generation trigger asthma attacks and contribute to other respiratory illnesses, heart disease, and cancer; furthermore, Massachusetts has the 8th highest current asthma rate in the United States; and

WHEREAS:

Greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced in a cost-effective manner that enhances economic development by applying currently available energy efficiency technologies and renewable energy programs that save money, create jobs and strengthen local economies, and improves energy security by diversifying our energy supply; and

WHEREAS:

Renewable energy resources, such as wind, solar, biomass and wastewater residuals– are constantly replenishing themselves; and, if properly managed, will be available to serve our energy needs forever; and

WHEREAS:

The City of Cambridge adopted the Climate Protection Plan in 2002 which sets a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent below 1990 levels by 2010; therefore reducing air pollution and global warming; and

WHEREAS:

The City of Cambridge is a member of the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign, which commits the City to be a leader in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions both through energy and fuel efficiency measures and through renewable energy generation and purchases; and

WHEREAS:

The City is fortunate that Cambridge businesses are now developing new technologies to further the use of our renewable energy resources; now therefore be it

RESOLVED:

That the City of Cambridge recognizes and supports the goal of the 20% by 2010 campaign; and be it further

RESOLVED:

That the City Council, with a commitment to the health of its citizens, commits the City of Cambridge to the 20% by 2010 campaign where, by the year 2010, the City's own municipal facilities including schools will purchase 20% of energy needs from clean energy sources and that the City staff will investigate all options for meeting that goal and beginning the purchases as soon as possible, including purchasing Renewable Energy Certificates, local clean energy installations and possible state and federal funding opportunities; and be it further

RESOLVED:

That the City of Cambridge will lead by example and encourage all businesses, institutions and households within Cambridge to engage in energy and fuel efficiency measures and to adopt the goal of making at least 20% of their energy purchases come from renewable energy sources by the year 2010; and be it further

RESOLVED:

That the City of Cambridge encourages residents and businesses to choose the clean energy option on their electricity bill if it becomes available and at the presentation of the 2005 Go Green Business Awards on June 14, 2005 will announce the City's commitment to 20% by 2010 and raise awareness of clean energy options.

In City Council June 6, 2005

Adopted as amended by the affirmative vote of eight members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk