

Resolution No.: 18-846
Introduced: June 13, 2017
Adopted: June 20, 2017

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Lead Sponsor: County Council

SUBJECT: Montgomery County Reaffirms Commitment to Meeting Goals of the Paris Climate Agreement

Background

1. On June 1, 2017 President Donald Trump announced that the United States would withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement.
2. In 2004, Montgomery County began procuring electricity from renewable sources. In 2016, the County began purchasing 100% of its electricity supply from clean sources and is also purchasing additional carbon offsets for building fuel oil and natural gas use. Moreover, since 2004 Montgomery County has led a coalition of county agencies and municipalities to purchase electricity supply generated from wind energy. The County led purchasing group currently ranks 4th among local governments and 15th among all national clean energy purchasers as tracked by the EPA's Green Power Partnership. This ranking is comparable to Fortune 500 companies.
3. Whereas buildings account for 40% of U.S. energy consumption and 39% of CO₂ emissions, Montgomery County has worked to improve the energy efficiency of its own buildings as well as those in the private sector. Montgomery County's green buildings law, passed in 2006, requires County buildings to be at least LEED Silver or the equivalent; private buildings must be LEED certified or the equivalent. In addition, the Council is currently in the process of updating its green construction code for commercial and residential buildings.
4. In 2007, Montgomery County was one of the first counties to partner with the Sierra Club to establish the Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration, which is an initiative that encourages action by counties across the nation to address the challenges climate change poses to local communities.
5. On April 22, 2008, the County adopted Bill 32-07, which established the Sustainability Working Group (SWG) and charged it with developing the Climate Protection Plan to:
 - a. reduce County-wide greenhouse gas emissions to 80% below the amount in the base year (FY05) and

- b. include a plan to stop increasing County-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 2010 and achieve a 10% reduction every 5 years through 2050.
6. In 2015 the County Council passed Bill 18-15, Environmental Sustainability – Montgomery County Green Bank, which established a County green bank, the first such bank to be established by a local government.
7. To reduce its own carbon footprint, County Government has increased the number of electric and hybrid vehicles in its fleet and committed to installing 6 megawatts of solar on public buildings and is expected to exceed 11 megawatts total.
8. To ensure continuity of public services during an emergency, the County is developing energy independent critical government facilities incorporating low carbon and clean energy sources of local electricity generation.
9. The County recently joined the “We Are Still In” coalition, which consists of mayors, governors, college and university leaders, businesses and investors, county executives, state attorneys general and religious institutions who are committed to meeting the goals established in the Paris Climate Agreement.
10. The Under 2° Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) brings together subnational governments willing to commit to either reducing their greenhouse gas emissions 80 to 95% below 1990 levels or limiting emissions to less than two metric tons per capita by 2050.

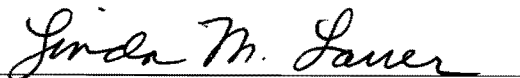
Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

The Council reaffirms its commitment to meeting the environmental goals of the Paris Climate Agreement and endorses the goals of the Under 2° MOU.

In addition, the Council declares its solidarity with companion efforts, such as: The American Sustainable Business Council, B Team, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Center for American Progress, Ceres, CDP, Climate Mayors, Climate Nexus, C40, C2ES, Environmental Defense Fund, Environmental Entrepreneurs, Georgetown Climate Center, ICLEI, National League of Cities, Rocky Mountain Institute, Second Nature, Sierra Club, The Climate Group, We Mean Business, and World Wildlife Fund.

This is a correct copy of Council action.



Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council