

Resolution No.: 18-968  
Introduced: October 17, 2017  
Adopted: November 28, 2017

**COUNTY COUNCIL  
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

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Lead Sponsor: Council President Berliner  
Co-Sponsors: Council Vice President Riemer,  
Councilmembers Elrich, Hucker, Katz, Leventhal, Navarro, Rice

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**SUBJECT:** Resolution to support strengthening Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard Requirement

**Background**

1. Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) law is a tool intended to incentivize new and clean sources of renewable energy that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other hazardous air and water pollution.
2. The RPS, enacted in May 2004 and revised numerous times since, requires electricity suppliers in the state to procure a minimum portion of their electric retail sales by eligible renewable energy sources. In February 2017, state lawmakers overrode Governor Larry Hogan's veto to enact H.B. 1106, which increased the state's RPS to 25% by 2020.
3. Electricity production accounted for 29 percent of 2015 greenhouse gas emissions in the United States, the largest of any economic sector.
4. Maryland is a coastal state with more than 3,000 miles of tidal shoreline, thus making it one of the most vulnerable states in the United States to sea level rise caused by greenhouse gas emissions that fuel climate change. Climate change will cause more severe storms, increased flooding, more extreme heat and droughts, and other detrimental impacts.
5. Fossil-fuel based energy emits pollution that creates a public health crisis. Increasing Maryland's clean energy requirement to 50% by 2030 and 100% by 2035 using clean energy would improve the air in our region.
6. Montgomery County has been a national leader in responding to the challenge of climate change and the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in favor of renewable energy sources.

7. In 2004, Montgomery County began procuring electricity from renewable sources. In 2016, the County began purchasing 100% of its electricity supply from renewable sources and is also purchasing additional carbon offsets for building fuel oil and natural gas use. 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 4<sup>th</sup> among local governments and 15<sup>th</sup> among all national clean energy purchasers as tracked by the EPA's Green Power Partnership.
8. Maryland has more than 170 solar companies and more than 5,400 solar jobs while the wind energy industry has brought more than \$380 million in private investment into the state's economy. Increasing Maryland's clean energy requirement to 50% by 2030 and 100% by 2035 would enable workforce development programs to train those across the economic spectrum for good-paying careers in the renewable energy industry and related economic sectors while increasing the state's gross domestic product as a result of the construction of new Maryland-based renewable energy projects.
9. The County Council considers clean renewable energy to be that produced by solar, wind, tidal, and geothermal sources. The inclusion of trash incineration, black liquor, woody biomass and any combustible energy source, which are not sources of clean energy, as eligible in the current RPS law displaces clean renewable energy.

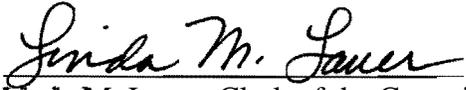
### **Action**

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

The Council declares its support for the General Assembly of Maryland to:

1. Increase Maryland's RPS law for electricity to at least 50% no later than 2030 and to 100% by 2035;
2. invest in clean-energy workforce development while targeting economically distressed communities and individuals who have historically experienced barriers to employment;
3. increase funding for investment capital and loans to help minority-, woman-, and veteran-owned businesses enter and grow within the renewable energy industry; and
4. eliminate as quickly as possible all incentives for non-clean energy sources under Maryland's RPS law, beginning immediately with limiting eligibility of combustion sources to those facilities currently in the RPS and removing all remaining non-clean sources by 2020.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda M. Lauer". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council