

RESOLUTION NO. 13-228

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville passed a 80% carbon reduction goal and in 2009 adopted a Sustainability Management Plan to meet that target, and the City is currently ahead of schedule in meeting that goal; and

WHEREAS, burning coal is the largest single source of carbon emissions in the Asheville area, releasing emissions annually equivalent to 500,000 cars; and

WHEREAS, over the past three years, power companies have announced the retirement of 150 coal plants in communities across the country, including 7 Duke Energy plants in NC; and

WHEREAS, the region's beauty, clean air and water are vital to the citizens of Asheville and the region's economy; and

WHEREAS, the clean energy economy currently provides approximately 15,000 jobs in the state of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Asheville and Western North Carolina are a hub for clean energy development in the state; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is the only state in the Southeast with a Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is currently ranked sixth in the United State for installed solar capacity; and

WHEREAS, Duke Energy Progress is ranked eighth, among the other operating utilities across the U.S., for added solar capacity in 2012; and

WHEREAS, prices for renewable energy sources, specifically solar energy, continue to decline and become more affordable to build, own and operate; and are providing affordable and reliable electricity nationwide; and

WHEREAS, energy efficiency is the least-cost means of satisfying potential new demand; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina filed an enforcement action against Duke Energy Progress in March 2013 stating that the "continued operation of the Asheville [coal-fired power plant in violation of state law] . . . poses a serious danger to the health, safety and welfare of the people of the State of North Carolina and serious harm to the water resources of the state;" and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville values its collaborative working relationship with Duke Energy Progress and looks forward to more success in the future;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:


1. The City of Asheville supports a local clean energy future for the city and the region.
2. The City of Asheville calls on Duke Energy Progress to partner with the City to help meet its carbon reduction goals by decreasing its reliance on fossil fuels, including transitioning from coal to electricity provided by clean renewable energy sources; while continuing to meet the company's obligation to provide affordable and reliable electricity to all customers 24-hours/day 7-days/week.
3. The City of Asheville further calls on Duke Energy Progress to continue and expand its investments in and programs supporting renewable energy, energy efficiency, and energy conservation.
4. The City of Asheville further calls on Duke Energy Progress to stop the spread of new coal ash pollution, and remediate existing coal ash pollution.
5. The City of Asheville develops a Clean Energy Partnership Progress Report that documents the achievements of this new partnership with Duke Energy Progress

Read, approved and adopted this 22nd day of October, 2013.


City Clerk


Mayor

Approved as to form:


City Attorney