

100% Renewable Resolution



Over 25 cities towns and cities in the United States and Canada have passed 100% Renewable Energy resolutions, and have been successful in decreasing their town's dependency on fossil fuel.

- 1) Read this handbook and educate yourself about the campaign!
- 2) Learn about how decisions are made in your town or city:
 - a) Do you have a town meeting style of government? If so, when does town meeting happen? Is it a representative town meeting, or an open town meeting? [Learn more about town meeting here.](#)
 - b) Do you have a city council? How many city councillors are there? Who are they? Are they generally supportive of clean energy? Where does your mayor stand?
- 3) Research your town's progress on clean energy to date
 - a) What has the city well? What can still be done?
 - b) The checklist at the end of this handbook may be helpful for assessing your town's progress
- 4) Have some kind of informational meeting for community members, and form a team
- 5) Educate active people in town government (e.g. Board of Selectmen, city councillor, people on key committees) on the need to set a goal of reaching 100% renewable energy
- 6) Spread the word! Go on public access TV, put articles in the local paper, bring speaker to town, hold public events (e.g. at the elementary school)
- 7) *For town meeting style of government:*
 - a) Draft a town meeting warrant article using sample below
 - b) Get enough signatures to submit the warrant article to the town (you may need 10 or 20 - depends on the town)
 - c) Submit the warrant article to the town government
 - d) Meet with selectmen and encourage them to offer their support
 - e) Get the word out and encourage fellow citizens and/or town meeting members to vote yes!
- 8) *For City Council style of government:*
 - a) Meet with City Councillors to gauge support
 - b) Work with a City Councillor to draft a resolution
 - c) Get the City Councillor to submit the resolution to the City Council
 - d) Participate in city council committee hearings as needed! Turn out supporters to give testimony in support of the resolution
 - e) Turn out big for the City Council vote!
 - f) If the City Council passes the resolution, push the mayor to vote yes!
- 9) Help follow through and implement next steps -- use momentum provided by the warrant article to push for clean energy projects in your town or city



SAMPLE RESOLUTION

Resolution of the City Council of the City of CITY NAME in support of 100 percent renewable energy

WHEREAS, too much of Massachusetts' energy comes from fossil fuels that pollute our air and water and alter our climate; and,

WHEREAS, Massachusetts communities are already feeling the impacts of climate change; and,

WHEREAS, the City of CITY NAME is already taking action to reduce its carbon emissions and promote clean energy, including LOCAL EXAMPLES (e.g., energy efficiency retrofits of all municipal buildings and the installation of solar panels on the city landfill); and

WHEREAS, clean energy has brought many benefits to Massachusetts, including reduced pollution, tens of thousands of clean energy jobs, and more of our energy dollars retained in the local economy; and

WHEREAS, Massachusetts has historically been a leader in the fight against global warming, and has a responsibility to continue to set a positive example for other states and countries to follow; and

WHEREAS, Massachusetts can get 100 percent of its energy from clean, renewable sources by harnessing its abundant solar and wind resources, and taking advantage of innovations in energy efficiency, green transportation, energy storage, and other technologies; and

WHEREAS, the transition to 100 percent renewable energy should promote employment opportunities and economic growth in our communities, facilitate local control and ownership over energy options, and bring tangible benefits to low-income residents and others who have historically been disadvantaged by our energy system;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of CITY NAME, in the County of COUNTY NAME, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, that Massachusetts should commit to a goal of 100 percent clean, renewable energy, and move as quickly as possible to achieve that goal;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that leaders in the Legislature and statewide elected and appointed officials are urged to do everything in their power to bring Massachusetts closer to 100 percent renewable energy, and ensure that the benefits of renewable energy are realized by Massachusetts residents from all walks of life;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of CITY NAME will commit to a goal of 100 percent renewable energy, and its officials and staff will consider all municipal decisions in light of whether they will bring the City and its residents, businesses, and institutions closer to 100 percent renewable energy;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of CITY NAME will avoid taking actions that could increase the use of fossil fuels or delay the transition to 100 percent renewable energy;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of CITY NAME will take actions to promote clean energy and reduce fossil fuel use, including: EXAMPLE, EXAMPLE