

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MAYOR GARCETTI'S SUSTAINABLE CITY PLAN GOAL FOR LOCAL SOLAR POWER

Introduction

WHEREAS, in 2013 the State of California emitted roughly 350 million metric tons of carbon-dioxide; and

WHEREAS, solar power is a clean source of energy Californians can use to power their homes and businesses to reduce pollution, improve air quality, and decrease the threat of global warming; and

WHEREAS, solar power has tripled in the U.S. in the last two years and increased by 237 percent in California between 2012 and 2014, with another American family or business going solar every four minutes; and

WHEREAS, the price of solar has dropped more than 50 percent since 2011; and

WHEREAS, more people are employed by the solar industry in California than in any other state, with more the 75,000 Californians working in the solar industry in 2015, a 38 percent increase over 2014; and

WHEREAS, with over 250 days of sunshine a year and over 10,000 acres of rooftop solar potential, Los Angeles has one of the highest capacities for local solar power in the United States; and

Environmental Benefits

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concluded with 95 percent certainty that anthropogenic carbon pollution is causing global temperatures to rise, exacerbating extreme weather events such as droughts, floods, and wildfires; and

WHEREAS, burning fossil fuels releases carbon, while solar energy production does not; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015 requires that the amount of electricity generated and sold to retail customers in California from eligible renewable energy resources be increased to 50 percent by December 31, 2030; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Diego committed in December 2015 to achieving 100 percent renewable energy by 2035, demonstrating remarkable leadership along with confidence in the environmental, economic, and health benefits of clean, local energy; and

WHEREAS, Governor Brown declared a state of emergency in January, 2014 due to severe drought conditions and mandated a 25 percent reduction in water consumption across California; and

WHEREAS, producing one kilowatt-hour of energy from solar photovoltaic (PV) systems requires approximately one-ninth as much water as producing one kilowatt-hour from a combined cycle fossil gas plant, and one seventeenth as much as from a coal-fired plant; and

Economic Benefits

WHEREAS, solar PV creates local jobs that benefit both the economy and the health of the community; and

WHEREAS, solar job growth was up 38 percent statewide in 2015, providing 20,000 new jobs for Californians in 2015 alone; and

WHEREAS, the average payback time of a residential solar system is 6-9 years, while the average lifespan of a system is 25 years, meaning solar PV not only pays for itself, but generates a profit as well; and

WHEREAS, if the market price of fossil fuels took into account all the negative health risks and damage to the environment they caused, they would be far more expensive; and

Health Benefits

WHEREAS, in 2015, the American Lung Association ranked the Los Angeles-Long Beach metropolitan area as the most polluted city in the country for ozone pollution, a greenhouse gas that irritates the lungs and increases the risk of bronchitis, asthma, and worsens lung and heart disease; and

WHEREAS, Los Angeles County's levels of ozone were out of compliance with federal Clean Air Act limits 83 days in 2015; and

WHEREAS, over 205,000 children—more than half of them Latino—and over 670,000 adults were living with asthma in Los Angeles in 2015 and are thus at increased risk from both ozone and particle pollution; and

WHEREAS, fossil fuel-burning power plants release toxic pollutants, including mercury, acid gases, and particulates, that damage the health of local residents, as well as greenhouse gases; and

WHEREAS, anthropogenic climate change, intensified by fossil fuels, creates serious negative health effects in the form of droughts, heat waves, and more extreme weather; and

WHEREAS, solar PV does not release toxic substances during electricity production; and

Los Angeles's Role

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles is the largest in California and the second largest in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Los Angeles has the capacity for over 5,500 megawatts (MW) of rooftop solar PV;

BE IT RESOLVED that the _____ Neighborhood Council of Los Angeles supports the pro-solar principles espoused in Mayor Garcetti's Sustainable City pLAN and urges the city to achieve 1,500 MW of local solar PV by 2025 as a *baseline* target, with a strong effort to surpass this goal.