

Clean Energy

Cities and towns across the US have assumed a new leadership role over the past year committing to move away from dirty fuels and repowering their communities with clean renewable energy. St. Petersburg, with a population of 261,000, recently released a Climate Action Plan to reduce emissions 50% by 2035 with an eye to achieving full carbon neutrality by 2050. The City of Sarasota passed a resolution to adopt a community-wide target of powering the city with 100% renewable, zero emission energy sources by 2045 and established a target of powering municipal operations with 100% renewable, zero emission energy sources by 2030.

In our Strategic Goal meetings, Mr. Daniels proposed, and we adopted, a plan to reduce the City of Venice's use of fossil fuels which impacts our cost and our environment. The goal is to have a 10% annual reduction in FPL kW's and have a 5% annual reduction in gallons of fuel used by the city beginning in 2018.

Strategy IN 1.1.4-Resource and Energy Efficient Practices, in our newly adopted Comprehensive Plan states:

The city will support and encourage the use of conservation and energy efficient practices including the use of renewable energy sources for the maintenance and operation of public facilities and properties to reduce costs and lead by example in the development of buildings and community facilities.

ACTION:

I would like Council to pass a resolution similar to the City of Sarasota that:

1. Adopts a target date for powering municipal operations to 100% renewable, zero emission energy sources.
2. Gives the Environmental Advisory Board the task of working with city staff to devise strategies that will implement the resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 17R-2648

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SARASOTA, FLORIDA FOR A TRANSITION TO 100 PERCENT RENEWABLE, ZERO EMISSION ENERGY SOURCES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 100 PERCENT RENEWABLE ENERGY INITIATIVE; PROVIDING FOR READING OF THIS RESOLUTION BY TITLE ONLY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Sarasota is a coastal community on the front lines of the environmental, economic and public health impacts of climate change stemming from sea level rise, storm surge, flooding, and rising temperatures; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sarasota seeks a healthy, sustainable future with less toxic pollution threatening residents and more economic growth opportunities for workers; and

WHEREAS, the transition to 100 percent renewable, zero emission energy sources, such as solar power, will improve air and water quality and protect public health, particularly for the most vulnerable across our community; and

WHEREAS, 100 percent renewable, zero emission energy sources as well as energy efficiency represent an enormous economic opportunity for City of Sarasota to create jobs in an emerging industry and expand prosperity for residents; and

WHEREAS, one out of every 50 new jobs added in the United States in 2016 was created by the solar industry; and

WHEREAS, 100 percent renewable, zero emission energy sources and energy efficiency now offer greater economic security, lower electricity costs, and an affordable energy solution for City of Sarasota residents; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Department of Energy, solar costs are down between 54 percent and 64 percent from 2008; and

WHEREAS, individuals, families, businesses, and institutions throughout the City of Sarasota seek greater energy freedom through the expansion of distributed 100 percent renewable, zero emission energy sources like rooftop solar; and

WHEREAS, business analysts have called Florida “the sleeping giant” of the solar industry; and

WHEREAS, in November 2016, the City of St. Petersburg became the first city in Florida to commit to transitioning to 100 percent renewable, zero emission energy sources; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sarasota has previously established a 35% community-wide greenhouse gas emission reduction goal by 2025, from a 2003 baseline; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sarasota has previously established a 35% municipal operations greenhouse gas emission reduction goal by 2025, from a 2003 baseline; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sarasota has established fast track permitting for private sector LEED certified buildings; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sarasota has entered into a “Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, and Energy Sustainability Agreement” with Florida Power and Light, as part of the 2010 Franchise Renewal; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sarasota has established that all new City buildings and major renovation projects shall use sustainable measures as outlined in LEED certification or “Alternative Compliance Pathways for Incentives”; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sarasota has established that all new urban expansion and infill developments shall use sustainable measures as outlined in LEED certification or “Alternative Compliance Pathways for Incentives”; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sarasota comprehensive plan stipulates that the City shall “actively pursue 100 percent renewable energy installations for City facilities”; and

WHEREAS, residents of the City of Sarasota and Sarasota County have recently formed a co-op to use their buying power to secure discounted prices for solar panels; and

WHEREAS, there is broad support for a just transition to 100 percent renewable, zero emission energy sources from City of Sarasota residents, business and institutions; and

WHEREAS, “renewable, zero emission energy” includes energy derived from solar, wind power sited in ecologically responsible ways, existing and low-impact hydroelectric, geothermal, and ocean/wave technology sources.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SARASOTA, FLORIDA:

Section 1. The City of Sarasota adopts a community-wide target of powering the City with 100 percent renewable, zero emission energy sources not later than 2045.

Section 2. The City of Sarasota adopts a target of powering municipal operations with 100 percent renewable, zero emission energy sources not later than 2030, including at least 50 percent by 2024.

Section 3. The City Commission of the City of Sarasota direct its Sustainability Manager to incorporate these targets into the City's Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation efforts and planning processes and to work with community stakeholders to devise implementation strategies.

Section 4. The City of Sarasota, in pursuit of these targets, will seek to build inclusive community leadership and policy engagement, promote equity in energy and resource costs and ownership of related technologies, generate sustainable economic and employment opportunities and mitigate related losses; and provide regional leadership to address equity in climate and energy.

Section 5. The City of Sarasota Sustainability Manager will report on progress to the City Commission towards these goals every two years, beginning in 2018.

Section 6. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of Sarasota upon reading by title only, after posting on the bulletin board at City Hall for at least three (3) days prior to adoption, as authorized by the Charter of the City of Sarasota this 19th day of June, 2017.



Shelli Freeland Eddie, Mayor

ATTEST:



Pamela M. Nadalini, MBA, GMC
City Auditor and Clerk



- Shelli Freeland Eddie, Mayor
- Liz Alpert, Vice Mayor
- Commissioner Jennifer Ahearn-Koch
- Commissioner Hagen Brody
- Commissioner Willie Charles Shaw

What Are We Doing

We have many current efforts to make city operations and our buildings more efficient. Here are some of our current sustainability-related projections, policies, or programs for internal operations.

- **Green Team** – We have an active Green Team with representatives within 11 departments that work together on projects and educational events around sustainability.
- **100 Percent Renewable Energy**- In June 2017, the City Commission adopted a resolution committing to 100 percent renewable energy for city operations by 2030 and 50% by 2024. The City is now launching a planning process coupled with feasibility assessments for rooftop solar on city buildings to inform strategies.
- **Fleet** – We strive to manage our city-owned vehicles in a responsible manner. We have a no-idling policy for non-emergency situations in an effort to reduce street-level pollution. The parking division uses electric vehicles. We ensure regular maintenance of city vehicles and track fuel consumption to inform any necessary changes
- **Energy Efficiency in City Buildings** – We search for opportunities to improve the energy efficiency in public buildings. In 2010 we began upgrading many of our electrical and water systems through a financing method called performance-based contracting. That effort, completed in 2012, has allowed the city to save over \$4 million in both direct costs and operational savings. We are looking to do a solar feasibility assessment later this year.
- **Greenhouse Gas Reduction** – We have a goal to reduce all greenhouse gas emissions from city operations by 25% by 2030 from a 2003 baseline. Good news is that based on our most recent inventory we are well on our way to reaching our target.
- **Employee Commuting** – We provide free bus passes to all full-time city employees to encourage alternative transportation.
- **Green Buildings** – All new city facilities and major renovations must be built to LEED or similar green certification standards. An example is the new parking garage being planned for St. Armand's circle, which is being designed to meet Park Smart certification.
- **Renewable Energy Agreement** - Florida Power and Light have a renewable energy agreement with the City of Sarasota. As part of this agreement, FPL installed a solar installation on the roof of Save our Seabirds and BayHaven elementary school. The City also installed a system on top of the Palm Ave parking garage. Later this year, the City will be assessment many more facilities for their solar potential.



- **Greenspace** – Our parks and recreation department oversees 50+ parks and open spaces and is currently planning how to better manage recreation activities and improve services. We also have a Downtown Greenspace Policy to encourage compact, mixed-use development in the urban core with walkable streets, parks and green spaces.
- **Rain Barrel Demonstration** – We have a rain barrel demonstration site at City Hall where visitors can see how a system operates.