



# CITY of WILMINGTON North Carolina

ITEM R1

P.O. BOX 1810  
28402

3/17/2020

City Council  
City Hall  
Wilmington, North Carolina 28401

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers:

The United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) and national initiative of Mayors For 100% Clean Energy by 2050, which is endorsed by Sierra Club, have enlisted the support of hundreds of communities across the country to adopt a public policy to transition to renewable energy targets with an ultimate goal of 100% renewable energy use.

The USCM's climate protection policy position is expressed as follows:

“Buildings are the nation's top energy consumer, accounting for about 40 percent of U.S. energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Cities are at the forefront of improving the energy performance of the nation's buildings, with actions that include stronger building codes, innovative building practices, efficient construction materials, and increased use of renewable energy. Not only will these actions rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality, but they will put Americans to work in our communities.

Cutting energy use in the transportation sector, the second-largest emitter of carbon, can be accomplished by providing more and smarter transportation options. Beyond federal fuel economy standards, much of the work to reengineer existing transportation networks, services, and practices have been shouldered by local leaders (source: <https://www.usmayors.org/2020-vision/address-climate-change-by-accelerating-clean-energy-use/>)”.

#### Appointment/Expectations

Notices of opportunity to apply for appointment to the Task Force were advertised and promoted with a closing application deadline of February 10, 2020. In addition, the Mayor and members of Council will identify and designate three persons to serve on the Task Force.

Staff has provided the Mayor and City Council with a roster of all applicants and Council “selected” persons. Final Task Force selection and appointment will be at the April 7, 2020 City Council meeting.

The City desires a Task Force composition that is inclusive and diverse in its membership to include residents, Wilmington business owners, Wilmington civic organizations, institutional organizations, and others to provide broad perspectives. The final number of Task Force members will be determined by the Mayor with a limit of no more than thirty-five (35). Further, the Task Force will serve as a principal means of engaging the community on this endeavor.

The Task Force's charge is to deliver a report to the Council at the end of six months. In order to deliver the report, the Task Force is expected, at a minimum, to provide an open and transparent process in the development of the Task Force's final report.

The City's Sustainability Manager will provide an interim report of the end of fourth month to the City Council on the Task Force's activities. Task Force members are expected to meet approximately ten times and the Task Force may use subcommittees (e.g. work groups) to help carry out its charter. Subcommittees may be comprised of other Wilmington residents who are not Task Force members so long as at least two Task Force members serve as the Co-Chairs of the said subcommittee.

#### Purpose/Charter:

The Task Force shall be temporary and will expire October 31, 2020. The Task Force shall advise the Mayor and Council, conduct research, study best practices within North Carolina cities, counties, and nationally and make recommendations on matters related:

- 1) to adopt a clean energy policy, including a target for 2050;
- 2) to reduce the city's reliance and use of fossil fuels in fleet and building operations;
- 3) to promote renewable energy and reduce harmful energy-related environmental impacts;
- 4) to create a socially equitable strategy that benefits all residents, especially low income; and
- 5) to provide strategies on how to engage Wilmington residents in support of a clean energy policy.

#### How Task Force Carries Out Its Charter

The Task Force shall research and make recommendations concerning the following matters:

- 1) Assess the merits of the city adopting a policy in support of the national initiative supported by the Mayors for 100% Clean Energy by 2050;
- 2) Review the city's current 2006 and 2009 resolutions endorsing the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and the city's Sustainability Manager's reports on greenhouse gas emission reduction strategies and progress;
- 3) Provide a forum to receive public input for policy adoption consideration;
- 4) Study strategies used by other communities to create a Clean Energy Policy and/ or Climate Action Plan; and
- 5) Assess how the North Carolina General Assembly supports currently the installation of renewable energy installations.

#### Co-Chairs:

The Mayor will select and appoint two persons to serve as Task Force Co-Chairs.

#### Task Force Liaisons:

- Mayor Bill Saffo and Councilmember Kevin Spears
- Deputy City Manager Thom Moton, Ex Officio

#### Staff Support & Involvement

The City's Sustainability Manager will be the assigned staff to this Task Force and that person shall be a voting Task Force member. The Sustainability Manager will carry out the following expectations:

- 1) Serve as a communication conduit to the City's Executive Management Team and the City's Sustainability Advisory Committee.
- 2) Provide logistical support to the Task Force, subcommittees, and Consultant contracted to guide this endeavor.
- 3) Ensure public meeting notices are communicated to the City Clerk's Office and meeting agendas, meeting summary minutes are provided at each meeting.
- 4) Other city staff may be called upon to help support this Task Force.

Subcommittees:

- 1) Planning to be comprised of the Task Force Co-Chairs, Sustainability Manager, Deputy City Manager;
- 2) Transportation/fleet operations;
- 3) Building construction/technology;
- 4) Social equity and community-wide adoption; and
- 5) Engagement and legislative.

Subcommittee functions may be changed with the Task Force Executive Committee approval. Any actions adopted by the Task Force for referral to Mayor and City Council shall require a majority vote of the Task Force at a meeting where a quorum exists.

A quorum shall be least nineteen (19) or more Task Force members present at a scheduled meeting.

Passage of the attached Resolution is recommended, including transfer of \$35,000 from Council Contingency funds.

Respectfully submitted,

Sterling B. Cheatham,  
City Manager

# Resolution



City Council  
City of Wilmington  
North Carolina

**Introduced By: Sterling B. Cheatham, City Manager**

**Date: 3/17/2020**

**Resolution Approving Establishment and Appointment of Members to the Mayor's Ad Hoc Clean Energy Policy Task Force to Assess Adoption of a Municipal Clean Energy Policy and Providing Appropriation for Professional Services**

**LEGISLATIVE INTENT/PURPOSE:**

WHEREAS, the City of Wilmington City Council has a long standing, proactive position toward energy conservation and protection of the natural resources for the betterment of the community, and

WHEREAS, the City of Wilmington City Council passed a resolution committing to the principles of the US Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Initiative on November 21, 2006, and

WHEREAS, the City of Wilmington City Council passed a subsequent resolution establishing a municipal greenhouse gas emission reduction (GHG) target in support of the US Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Initiative on October 20, 2009, and

WHEREAS, the City of Wilmington already has initiatives and plans in place to protect the environment through GHG emissions, reduction on reliance of fossil fuels, and

WHEREAS, the City of Wilmington employs a Sustainability Manager and has a employee Sustainability Committee to review the City's GHG emission reduction efforts, and

WHEREAS, the US Conference of Mayors in 2017 passed a resolution supporting 100% clean renewable energy community-wide for cities by 2050, and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

THAT, the City of Wilmington City Council supports the establishment of a Mayor's Ad Hoc Clean Energy Policy Task Force to assess the merits of the City adopting a policy in support of the national initiative by the US Conference of Mayors to transition to clean energy by 2050.

THAT, the Task Force was established for six months and to provide a report to City Council by October 31, 2020.

THAT, the Task Force be created as proposed in the attachment entitled, "Mayor's Ad Hoc Clean Energy Policy Task Force".

THAT, the Mayor’s Ad Hoc Clean Energy Policy Task Force, and any sub-committees that it may appoint, are public bodies that serve an advisory function and are subject to, and shall comply with, North Carolina Open Meetings and Public Records requirements.

THAT, \$35,000 from City Council Contingency Funds be transferred to engage a professional services firm/person to assist City staff and the Task Force in this endeavor and to provide for expenses associated with Task Force meetings and activities.

Adopted at a \_\_\_\_\_ meeting  
on \_\_\_\_\_ 2020

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Saffo, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Penelope Spicer-Sidbury, City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

## MAYOR'S AD HOC CLEAN ENERGY POLICY TASK FORCE, CITY OF WILMINGTON NC

### Background/Introduction

The United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) and national initiative of Mayors For 100% Clean Energy by 2050, which is endorsed by Sierra Club, have enlisted the support of hundreds of communities across the country to adopt a public policy to transition to renewable energy targets with an ultimate goal of 100% renewable energy use. The USCM's climate protection policy position is expressed as follows:

*“Buildings are the nation’s top energy consumer, accounting for about 40 percent of U.S. energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Cities are at the forefront of improving the energy performance of the nation’s buildings, with actions that include stronger building codes, innovative building practices, efficient construction materials, and increased use of renewable energy. Not only will these actions rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality, but they will put Americans to work in our communities.*

*Cutting energy use in the transportation sector, the second-largest emitter of carbon, can be accomplished by providing more and smarter transportation options. Beyond federal fuel economy standards, much of the work to reengineer existing transportation networks, services, and practices have been shouldered by local leaders (source: <https://www.usmayors.org/2020-vision/address-climate-change-by-accelerating-clean-energy-use/>)”*

### Appointment/Expectations

Notices of opportunity to apply for appointment to the Task Force were advertised and promoted with a closing application deadline of February 10, 2020. In addition, the Mayor and members of Council will identify and designate three persons to serve on the Task Force.

Staff will provide the Mayor and City Council with roster of all applicants and appointments at the March 17, 2020 Council meeting for final selection and appointment.

The city desires a Task Force composition that is inclusive and diverse in its membership to include residents, Wilmington business owners, Wilmington civic organizations, institutional organizations, and others to provide broad perspectives. The final number of Task Force members will be determined by the Mayor with a limit of no more than thirty-five (35). Further, the Task Force will serve as a principal means of engaging the community on this endeavor.

The Task Force's charge is to deliver a report to the Council at the end of six months. In order to deliver the report, the Task Force is expected, at a minimum, to provide an open and transparent process in the development of the Task Force's final report. The city's Sustainability Manager will provide an interim report of the end of fourth month to the City Council on the Task Force's activities. Task Force members are expected to meet approximately ten times and the Task Force may use subcommittees (e.g. work groups) to help carry out its charter. Subcommittees may be comprised of other Wilmington residents who are not Task Force members so long as at least two Task Force members serve as the Co-Chairs of the said subcommittee.

## MAYOR'S AD HOC CLEAN ENERGY POLICY TASK FORCE, CITY OF WILMINGTON NC

### **Purpose/Charter:**

The Task Force shall be temporary and will expire October 31, 2020. The Task Force shall advise the Mayor and Council, conduct research, study best practices within North Carolina cities, counties, and nationally and make recommendations on matters related:

- 1) to adopt a municipal clean energy policy, including a target for 2050;
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- 3) to promote renewable energy and reduce harmful energy-related environmental impacts;
- 4) to create a socially equitable strategy that benefits all residents, especially low income; and
- 5) to provide strategies on how to engage Wilmington residents in support of a clean energy policy.

### **How Task Force Carries Out Its Charter**

The Task Force shall research and make recommendations concerning the following matters:

- 1) Assess the merits of the city adopting a policy in support of the national initiative supported by the Mayors for 100% Clean Energy by 2050;
- 2) Review the city's current 2006 and 2009 resolutions endorsing the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and the city's Sustainability Manager's reports on greenhouse gas emission reduction strategies and progress;
- 3) Provide a forum to receive public input for policy adoption consideration;
- 4) Study strategies used by other communities to create a Clean Energy Policy and/ or Climate Action Plan; and
- 5) Assess how the North Carolina General Assembly supports currently the installation of renewable energy installations.
- 6) Assess the Duke Energy clean energy goals and how those will support the City's plans/goals

### **City Council Liaisons**

- Mayor Bill Saffo and Councilmember Kevin Spears will serve as the Task Force Council Liaisons.
- City Manager's Office Liaison Deputy City Manager Thom Moton, Ex Officio.

### **Staff Support & Involvement**

The city's Sustainability Manager will be the assigned staff to this Task Force and that person shall be a voting Task Force member. The Sustainability Manager will carry out the following expectations:

- 1) Serve as a communication conduit to the city's Executive Management Team and the city's Sustainability Advisory Committee.
- 2) Provide logistical support to the Task Force, subcommittees, and Consultant contracted to guide this endeavor.

**MAYOR'S AD HOC CLEAN ENERGY POLICY TASK FORCE,  
CITY OF WILMINGTON NC**

- 3) Ensure public meeting notices are communicated to the City Clerk's Office and meeting agendas, meeting summary minutes are provided at each meeting.
- 4) Other city staff may be called upon to help support this Task Force.

**Subcommittees:**

- 1) Planning to be comprised of the Task Force Co-Chairs, Sustainability Manager, Deputy City Manager;
- 2) Renewable energy infrastructure installations;
- 3) Transportation/ fleet operations and building construction/technology;
- 4) Social equity and community-wide adoption; and
- 5) Engagement and legislative.

Subcommittee functions may be changed with the Task Force Executive Committee approval.

Any actions adopted by the Task Force for referral to Mayor and City Council shall require a majority vote of the Task Force at a meeting where a quorum exists. A quorum shall be least nineteen (19) or more Task Force members are present at a scheduled meeting.