

ADOPTED
RESOLUTION NO. 2019-280

Establishing the Tompkins County Climate and Sustainable Energy Advisory Board

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 2017-6 passed on January 3, 2017, the Tompkins County Legislature created the Tompkins County Energy Task Force to serve for a three-year period ending on December 31, 2019, and

WHEREAS, the Energy Task Force was tasked with providing input and guidance to the Legislature and the Department of Planning and Sustainability (DPS) on the topics of energy, climate change, and energy-related economic development, and specifically with updating the Tompkins County Energy Strategy, and

WHEREAS, with the input and guidance of the Energy Task Force, the Tompkins County Energy Strategy was updated by the DPS, and adopted by the Legislature on August 6, 2019, and

WHEREAS, the pace of anthropogenic climate change is accelerating rapidly, and mitigating its effects requires a paradigm shift to sustainable energy sources and greater energy efficiency, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) sets ambitious greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction standards for all state residents and communities, including Tompkins County, and

WHEREAS, the updated Tompkins County Energy Strategy commits the County to moving its facilities and operations to net-zero GHG emissions as quickly as is fiscally viable, and

WHEREAS, Tompkins County would benefit from enhanced capacity and specialized expertise in new energy technologies, and will need continued input and guidance from experts on issues relating to climate change and sustainable energy, and

WHEREAS, the Legislature, and particularly the Planning, Energy, and Environmental Quality Committee, expects that Tompkins County will need expertly curated information on legislative and regulatory initiatives, and successful community programs, relating to energy and climate change, as well as emerging energy efficiency, renewables, and climate adaptation technologies, over the next two years, and

WHEREAS, a Climate and Sustainable Energy Advisory Board would provide that information, as well as recommendations to assist the County in developing additional capacity and expertise to engage with State policy makers and regulators, utility staff, municipal leaders, developers, businesses, and community groups to set Tompkins County government and the wider Tompkins County community on a successful course to meeting the GHG emission reduction goals of the CLCPA and the Tompkins County Energy Strategy as quickly as is fiscally and economically feasible, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Energy, and Environmental Quality Committee, That a Tompkins County Climate and Sustainable Energy Advisory Board be established with a two-year term of operation with the option to extend, and will consist of nine members who will be appointed by the Legislature,

RESOLVED, further, That members will be appointed on the basis of their expertise and engagement in issues related to climate change and sustainable energy, including emerging energy efficiency, renewables, and climate adaptation technologies,

