



TOMPKINS COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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**RESOLUTION NO. 2016 - 1: SUPPORT FOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF WIND
TURBINE TECHNOLOGIES IN TOMPKINS COUNTY TO ASSIST IN
ACHIEVING THE COMMUNITY'S GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION
REDUCTION GOALS**

Whereas, Tompkins County has adopted a 2020 Energy Strategy (2010) and an updated Comprehensive Plan (2015) mandating at least an 80% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (from 2008 levels) by 2050, and,

Whereas, Tompkins County recently completed an Energy Roadmap feasibility study (2016) that identified the resource capacity of a variety of strategies such as demand management with energy conservation and efficiency as well as the renewable technologies of solar, wind, mini-hydro, and biomass, and that demonstrates our local capabilities of reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, and,

Whereas, beyond reduced greenhouse gas emissions improved public health will result from limiting fossil fuel use, and,

Whereas, historically, most energy used in the United States has been collected and delivered through centralized facilities, owned and operated by large companies and utilities, while renewable energy provides an opportunity for distributed energy production closer to end-users, and,

Whereas, community and municipally owned renewable energy facilities are more transparent and responsive to neighborhood concerns during the process of development and, when community members control the definition, management, and execution of the

project, the goals of the project align with the energy goals of the local community, and,

Whereas, when a wide variety of collective and community-scale approaches allows local energy users to share the benefits of developing local energy resources, these efforts help communities move from importing energy to producing their own energy, and,

Whereas, community renewable energy projects and programs can have multiple economic benefits (e.g., spurring rural economic development and diversification, providing PILOT funding to local municipalities and schools, leaseholder payments, and construction jobs) while reducing the negative environmental impacts associated with fossil-fuel-based energy production. Communities can strive to build out a network of distributed energy generation as a hedge against the uncertainties of future energy prices and the vulnerabilities of centralized power generation, and,

Whereas, the Environmental Management Council provides advice to the County Legislature on a variety of environmental matters, serves as a community forum for the discussion of important local environmental issues, conducts public education campaigns, and seeks to foster local municipalities developing plans for unified action, and,

Whereas, the Energy Committee of the EMC has developed a document entitled “Wind Power: Frequently Asked Questions” that draws upon technical reports and up-to-date peer-reviewed articles from the scientific literature, and,

Whereas, the EMC recognizes that this document is not fully comprehensive since not every issue associated with wind power development (such as social equity or comparing the relative size of subsidies to fossil fuel and renewable energy technologies) is addressed here; instead the focus is on those issues of concern identified at local public meetings, Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the EMC supports the deployment of wind turbines in Tompkins County and seeks to inform the public dialog on the benefits as well as the concerns regarding environmental and public health impacts of wind power projects.

Date: April 14, 2016

Voting in the Affirmative 11

Opposed 0

Abstentions 0