

## **RESOLUTION 1229**

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF STATE COLLEGE, PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTING THE MUNICIPALITY TO DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING A STRATEGY TO ACHIEVE NET ZERO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND 100 PERCENT RENEWABLE ENERGY NO LATER THAN 2050**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of State College has already set an example by achieving most of the GHG, energy conservation, and renewable energy goals set out in Resolution 944, declaring State College Borough a "Climate Protection Community", initiating a series of municipal practices compatible with GHG reduction and renewable energy use, and establishing our Sustainability committee, passed by Borough Council and signed by Mayor Bill Welch on August 27, 2007;" and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of State College recognized this effort by passage and approval of State College Borough's Sustainability Plan in 2018, which identified specific objectives and tasks to immediately begin reducing GHG emissions;" and

**WHEREAS**, the State College Borough Home Rule Charter, Article IX, Section 1105, "Right to a Sustainable Future" states that, "All residents in State College Borough possess a right to a sustainable energy future, which includes, but is not limited to, the development, production, and use of energy from renewable fuel sources;" and

**WHEREAS**, the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Article 1, Section 27 states that, "Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustees of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people;" and

**WHEREAS**, the transition to 100 percent renewable energy will promote employment opportunities and sustainable growth in the Borough of State College, the Centre Region, Centre County, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, facilitate local control and ownership over energy options, and bring tangible benefits to low-income residents and others who have historically been disadvantaged by fossil fuel-based energy systems; and

**WHEREAS**, Pennsylvania contributes approximately 1% of global GHG emissions, which, according to the Commonwealth's Third Pennsylvania Climate Impacts Assessment Report, is affecting agriculture, energy, human health, infrastructure, recreation, water quality, forests, and other ecosystems in Pennsylvania, and human health and ecological systems around the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 1.5 C, the U.S. Fourth National Climate Assessment, and the 14th Global Risk Report of the World Economic Forum all conclude that climate disruption is a present danger to human health, the environment, and the economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris agreed to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and to pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels in order to prevent catastrophic harm to people and ecological systems on which life depends; and

**WHEREAS**, both the magnitude and speed needed to achieve these reductions necessary to prevent dangerous human-induced climate disruption urgently requires all local government entities to cooperate with other levels of government, the private sector, educational institutions, agriculture, and others to rapidly develop strategies to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to net zero to achieve the Paris Agreement's warming limit goals; and

**WHEREAS**, any delay in reducing GHG emissions makes the Paris Agreement's warming limit goals much more difficult, as existing GHG emissions levels are rapidly reducing the shrinking carbon budgets that must constrain total global GHG emissions to achieve said goals; and

**WHEREAS**, the impact of global climate disruption falls disproportionately on the poor, indigenous people, people of color, and future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, a growing number of local government entities and private and public sector organizations around the world have committed to begin planning to reduce their GHG emissions to net zero as quickly as possible but no later than 2050 or, at minimum, achieve 100% non-fossil fuel generated electricity by that date; and

**WHEREAS**, over 100 U.S. municipalities have promised to transition to 100 percent renewable energy by 2050 at the latest; and

**WHEREAS**, green building practices and standards have been established, and the cost of non-fossil fuel generated energy including solar, wind, and geothermal power have fallen to the point that the replacement of fossil-fuel generated energy with renewable energy is reaching price parity with non-renewable energy; and

**WHEREAS**, universities in Pennsylvania, including the Pennsylvania State University provide jobs that research, support, and educate Pennsylvania's renewable energy industry and conduct international, national, state-level, and local climate assessments and planning assistance; and

**WHEREAS**, green building and renewable energy industries employ thousands of Pennsylvanians;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HERE RESOLVED:**

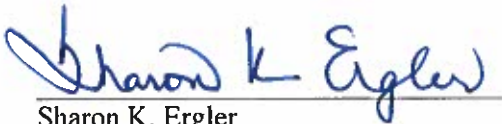
1. The Borough of State College shall a) Achieve net zero GHG emissions and 100 percent renewable energy as quickly as feasible, but no later than 2050, and build upon the plans we already have to immediately develop a strategy to complete this goal, and b) commit to achieving the GHG emissions reductions target determined by said strategy and by the date identified therein; and
2. Will participate in related regulatory proceedings and State legislation to advocate for rules and policies that support the Borough's energy goals; and
3. Lead by example to rapidly pursue these goals in a manner that is transparent, fair, and economically responsible; and

4. Engage peer governments, non-governmental organizations, businesses, and universities to raise awareness and identify courses of action to reduce the impacts and embrace the opportunities created by human-induced climate disruption to Pennsylvania and places around the world.
5. That “clean, renewable energy” to achieve the stated goals includes energy produced from environmentally sensitive technologies. Resources will be evaluated for carbon impact, public health, and environment justice implications.

**RESOLVED** this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of June, 2019.

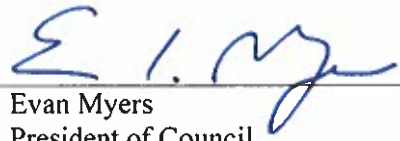
ATTEST:

BOROUGH OF STATE COLLEGE



Sharon K. Ergler  
Assistant Borough Secretary

By:



Evan Myers  
President of Council