## **RESOLUTION 17-13**

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HARRIS, CENTRE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTING THE TOWNSHIP TO DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING A STRATEGY TO ACHIEVE NET ZERO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

WHEREAS, in 2008, Harris Township participated in the Centre Region Greenhouse Gas Pilot Project; and

WHEREAS, that project studied the greenhouse gas emissions by various sector in each of the six Centre Region municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the study found that in 2006, Harris Township had the highest per capita emissions in the Region at 12.3 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e. The study also found that most of this was due to a reliance on electricity and fuel oil for heating; and

WHEREAS, the study recommended the development of a regional climate action plan. It also recommended that each municipality pass a resolution, committing each municipality to taking specific actions to reduce its emissions; 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 percent non-fossil fuel generated electricity by that date; and

WHEREAS, green building practices and standards have been established, and the cost of nonfossil 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 nonrenewable energy; and

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

WHEREAS, agriculture and forestry have played important roles in Harris Township's economy and culture for generations, and are integral in sinking carbon, providing additional ecosystem services, beauty, and recreation, as well as afford a high quality of life for people and our environment.

## NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- 1. The Township of Harris shall a) Immediately begin to develop a strategy to achieve net zero GHG emissions as quickly as feasible, and b) commit to achieving the GHG emissions reductions target determined by said strategy as soon as feasible; and
- 2. Lead by example to pursue these goals in a manner that is transparent, fair, and economically responsible.

DULY ENACTED this 14th day of August 2017.

## Harris Township Board of Supervisors

Bruce Lord, Chairman

Frank Harden, Vice Chairman

Charles Graham, Supervisor

Dennis Hameister, Supervisor

Nigel Wilson, Supervisor

ATTEST:

Amy Farkas, Secretary