RESOLUTION NO. 2019-13

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY FUTURE FOR THE BOROUGH OF LNASDOWNE

WHEREAS, the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris resulted in a consensus among all 195 countries to limit the increase in global average temperatures to well below 2°C, ensure that greenhouse gas emissions will not exceed sinks (total carbon capture) by the second half of this century, and become carbon neutral between 2050 and 2100; and

WHEREAS, Governor Tom Wolf signed Executive Order 2019-01 in 8 January 2019 to assert the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s obligation to address issues of climate change and on 29 April 2019, released the State of Pennsylvania’s Climate Action Plan while simultaneously joining with 23 other states in the bipartisan United States Climate Alliance;

WHEREAS, the State of Pennsylvania, released the Climate Action of Plan in 2018 to address issues of climate change, including the following impacts already affecting residents in the Borough of Lansdowne: “more frequent extreme weather events including large storms, periods of drought, heat waves, heavier snowfalls, and an increase in overall precipitation variability, with increased infrastructure disruption and need for emergency management; increased risks of injury and death from extreme weather events; increased human health risks from air pollution, diminished water quality, and heat stress such as exacerbated asthma or increased water-borne illnesses; changes in rainfall, snowfall, heat, and other conditions that will affect outdoor recreation, transportation and general use of the outdoors;”

WHEREAS, the internationally agreed upon goals can be met based upon existing and new national, state, and local initiatives; and our actions will contribute to a critical mass of local climate initiatives that can collectively reduce climate disruption and help minimize the impact of extreme weather on our communities; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Lansdowne Councilmembers swear to uphold the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; thus, obligating Council to take actions in accordance with Article I Section 27 of the Pennsylvania state constitution, ensuring the people of Pennsylvania “a right to clean air, pure water, and the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic, and esthetic values of the environment”; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 Comprehensive Plan of Lansdowne Borough calls for energy conservation and local renewable energy generation initiatives; and

WHEREAS the Borough of Lansdowne has previously demonstrated its commitment to advancing local climate solutions, through efforts to clean and maintain Darby Creek as a Municipal member of the Darby Creek Valley Association, through installation of Rain Gardens, Pollinator Gardens, through application for and receipt of grants to conduct energy audits and retrofit Borough facilities and processes to maximize Borough energy efficiency, amongst other programs;
WHEREAS the Borough of Lansdowne has received recognition as a Municipal leader by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission for its efforts in Energy efficiency; and, recognition for over 30 years as a Tree City, USA, by the Arbor Day Foundation; and, recently was awarded Birdtown, USA status by the Audubon Society;

WHEREAS, Lansdowne Borough strives to support the highest quality of life for current and future residents by: Being accessible, accountable, responsive, and respectful to all; Providing essential services with fiscal soundness; Promoting good stewardship of the Borough’s scenic, natural, and historic resources; and Promoting vital social and physical connections between our residents and neighbors; and

WHEREAS, the best strategy for achieving a cost effective, even cost saving, energy source transition is through collaboration with other Delaware County energy leaders and participating in aggregated procurement contracts such as Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) for regional wind and solar energy; and

WHEREAS, a renewable energy initiative can produce energy cost savings for residents and local businesses while stimulating new economic activity and local jobs while providing life protecting benefits for everyone; and

WHEREAS, Lansdowne Borough commends other municipalities in Delaware County and the surrounding counties: such as Haverford and Radnor in Delaware County; Phoenixville, West Chester, Uwchlan, Kennett Square, and East Bradford in Chester County; and Springfield, Whitemarsh, and Bridgeport in Montgomery County for being leaders and setting goals for the transition to renewable energy in their communities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Lansdowne Borough Council will:

1. Cooperate with other municipalities in Delaware County who are energy leaders to transition to 100% clean and renewable energy with the specific desire to transition to 100% clean renewable electricity by 2035 and 100% renewable energy for heat and transportation by 2050; and

2. Provide support for commissioning a committee and/or consultant to work with the Lansdowne Environmental Advisory Council and Borough Council and other local municipalities with the goal of drafting an energy transition plan by April 22, 2020 (Earth Day) for achieving these goals, to include interim milestones, financial impacts, equity metrics, potential financing mechanisms, and percentage of clean energy that is locally produced; and

3. Define clean renewable energy as carbon-free and pollution-free energy generated sustainably from renewable sources such as wind, solar, small hydro, tidal, fuel cells and geothermal; and

4. Prioritize locally produced and distributed energy whenever feasible for the many advantages it provides to the community; and

5. Encourage participation from Lansdowne Borough stakeholders in the planning and implementation process;

6. Investigate cooperative energy purchasing opportunities;

7. Call on the State of Pennsylvania to set a goal to use 100% renewable energy for all purposes no later than 2050;
8. Call on the State of Pennsylvania to adopt codes and standards to increase the efficiency of buildings and appliances;

9. Call on the State of Pennsylvania to increase the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard to levels that put us on track to meet 100% renewable energy goals; and to pursue additional measures to advance the transition to renewable energy sources and to increase the efficiency of buildings and appliances;

10. Lansdowne Borough commits to working with other Delaware County Municipalities and the Delaware County Regional Planning Commission to create an energy planner/advocate position. The energy planner will develop and implement renewable energy strategies for Delaware County municipalities, residents, businesses, and institutions. Also, the energy planner will assist in working on a “Just Transition” plan for workers who face loss of employment in the transformed energy economy. This energy advocate will be a County position to be funded by the county and available grant support.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Lansdowne Borough Council acknowledges that this resolution does not financially obligate the Borough in any way.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED THIS 18th DAY OF September 2019.

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF
THE BOROUGH OF LANSDOWNE

By: Michael Schleigh, Council President

ATTEST:

By: Barbara A. Henry, Secretary