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Tom Butine

**A Resolution for the Local Governments of Washington County on Clean Energy**

***Premise:*** *Working together, local government, non-governmental organizations, utilities, businesses and citizens can increase our energy efficiency, reduce emissions, increase sustainable practices, and minimize the negative impact of energy usage on the health and safety of our citizens and our economy by setting specific emission reduction goals for an efficient and economical energy future based primarily on clean and renewable forms of energy that improve air quality and our quality of life.*

***Approach:*** *Pass similar resolutions for the county and its major cities, resulting in a county-wide joint committee to set goals, explore how to accomplish them, and then eventually implement practices that will achieve them.*

**WHEREAS,** many people choose to live here because of the superior quality of life, moderate climate, open space, magnificent scenery and vistas, clean air, opportunities for outdoor recreation, and balance of environmental and economic stewardship policies that protect natural resources; and

**WHEREAS,** our population will continue to grow, which will increase our demand for energy, which will in turn increase emissions that would pose a concern to our area’s economic prosperity, water supply and overall livability and quality of life; and

**WHEREAS,** maintaining air quality is critical to the health of the residents and the prosperity of the businesses in our cities and county; and

**WHEREAS,** we support the 2018 state resolution [HCR 007](https://le.utah.gov/~2018/bills/static/HCR007.html) which acknowledges the impacts of energy emissions, encourages their reduction, urges the prioritization and coordination of the our tremendous free market resources to address those impacts, and encourages environmental stewardship consistent with Utah values while simultaneously fostering economic stewardship; and

**WHEREAS,** technological advancements in clean energy development, utilization and storage have made it possible for communities to plan for local clean energy generation and increased energy self-sufficiency, independence and reliability; and

**WHEREAS,** the residents of Washington County and its cities value solving problems locally and empowering individuals to address challenges, and have an interest in the long-term economic viability of our growing community balanced with and supported by environmental stewardship and the goals and values of the county; and

**WHEREAS,** local governments are responsible for safeguarding the economic well-being of the community through prudent management of resources, supporting growing businesses like tourism and outdoor recreation, supporting local technology and business opportunities for clean energy development, and reducing potential risks to growth opportunities posed by the impacts of energy emissions; and

**WHEREAS,** our county has abundant solar resources; and

**WHEREAS,** advancement in renewable energy technology have made renewable energy economically viable and more cost effective than traditional energy; and

**WHEREAS,** we support the economic opportunities offered by local renewable energy with the benefits of increased high-skilled jobs and tax revenue from energy-producing properties;

**Therefore, we resolve** to work collaboratively with local governments, utilities within the county and energy stakeholders to seek mutually beneficial relationships that increase our utilization of clean energy and energy efficiency, lower our dependence on non-renewable sources of energy and increase our self-sufficiency.

**Therefore, we resolve** to encourage businesses and contractors in Washington County to use sustainable practices and pursue energy efficiency, including the use of sustainability measures in building practices and procurement process when hiring contractors for the development of roads and government facilities.

**Lastly, we further resolve** to participate in a task force composed of local government representatives, non-government organizations, utilities, businesses and citizens with the mission to investigate how local governments in the county, businesses and citizens, could act to reduce emissions.

Reference: [Utah 2019 HCR002 Concurrent Resolution Supporting Renewable and Sustainable Energy Options to Promote Rural Economic Development](https://le.utah.gov/~2019/bills/static/HCR002.html)