

Fossil Free Resolution for Fairfax County, Virginia

A resolution to move Fairfax County to 100% clean, renewable energy and to oppose new fossil fuel projects.

WHEREAS climate change is real, has been affirmed by overwhelming scientific evidence, and has already wrought devastating impacts, here and around the globe;

WHEREAS there is no credible path to a safe climate that includes new fossil fuel infrastructure;

WHEREAS scientists have found that climate change poses a significant threat to Virginia's economy and has impacts that are likely to include diminished fish and wildlife habitat, increased disease vectors and invasive species, and urban heat islands;

WHEREAS Fairfax County has a responsibility to its residents, the country, and the world to accelerate the transition to 100% clean, renewable energy and to oppose new fossil fuel infrastructure;

WHEREAS local, state, and national economies are rapidly transitioning to 100% clean, renewable energy;

WHEREAS the economic opportunities presented by a clean energy transition far outweigh the opportunities of expanding the fossil fuel economy;

WHEREAS "renewable energy" includes energy derived from solar, wind power sited in ecologically responsible ways, existing and low-impact hydroelectric, geothermal, and ocean/wave technology sources; and these sources of energy can have significant public health and other co-benefits that can help address pressing ecological and environmental justice challenges in sensitive ecosystems and communities here and around the country;

WHEREAS energy efficiency, rooftop solar, parking lot solar, community solar, and demand control technologies offer the opportunity to redistribute resources and stimulate new economic activity;

WHEREAS a just transition to 100% renewable energy will create millions of high-quality, family-sustaining jobs;

WHEREAS one sector alone, solar energy, can produce over 50,000 jobs in Virginia; and

WHEREAS the renewable energy economy presents opportunities for workers in manufacturing, construction, and service sectors, and it is essential that workers play a role in helping drive innovation toward cleaner energy economies while creating and maintaining family-sustaining jobs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Fairfax County will actively oppose infrastructure whose primary purpose is transporting or storing fossil fuels in or through Fairfax County or adjacent waterways;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Fairfax County urges the Commonwealth of Virginia to adopt 100% renewable energy goals and to renew and expand renewable energy incentives;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Fairfax County urges the Commonwealth of Virginia to adopt codes and standards to increase the efficiency and sustainability of buildings and appliances;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Fairfax County shall seek and identify opportunities to invest in the County's "human infrastructure" by supporting programs to re-train our workforce as the County transitions to a clean energy economy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Fairfax County will set budget priorities that favor renewable energy sources and energy efficient projects;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Fairfax County will form a Climate Action Committee that will include but not be limited to communities of color, low-income residents, youth representatives, business representatives, labor union representatives, and environmental advocates to help the County achieve these goals with special attention to addressing environmental, social, and economic inequities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Fairfax County will establish a Youth Climate Council to provide regular support and advice to the Board of Supervisors in meeting the County's climate goals through strong, science-based action, as today's youth and their children will inherit the effects of past decisions we have made;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Fairfax County impact statements accompanying a resolution or ordinance shall quantify contributions to the 100% renewable energy goal;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Fairfax County will support a community-wide goal of 100% clean, renewable energy no later than 2050 (with an interim goal of 80% renewable energy by 2035), establishing sector-by-sector targets and an inclusive climate action planning process within the next year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution is binding County policy.