

A Resolution of the Branford RTM to Commit to the 20% by 2010 Clean Energy Campaign

WHEREAS, the world's most respected association of climate scientists, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), projects that global warming will be even more severe than previously thought, with temperatures in Connecticut projected to rise by approximately 4 degrees Fahrenheit this Century and with the vast majority of warming clearly attributable to human activity; and

WHEREAS, electricity production is the leading cause of industrial air pollution in the United States of which Branford residents are exposed to resulting in a variety of health risks including cases of asthma especially in children; and

WHEREAS, the economic impact of not using conservation technology and alternative energy sources results in direct and indirect costs to Branford citizens.

These costs include medical, lost days at work, and environmental; and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut legislature has mandated the creation of a clean energy option for consumers who will be able to sign up for clean energy in their electric bill; and

WHEREAS, by meeting the goals of 20% by 2010, Branford can begin to address the problems resulting from the above; and

WHEREAS, greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced in a cost-effective manner that enhances economic development by applying currently available energy efficiency technologies and such renewable energy programs as Branford and many towns have implemented that save money, create jobs and strengthen local economies; and

WHEREAS, clean energy resources – such as wind and solar energy – constantly replenish themselves, do not cause the buildup of global warming gases and health-damaging pollutants, and if properly managed, will be available to serve our energy needs forever; and

WHEREAS, the 20% by 2010 campaign is a Connecticut not-for-profit initiative that has undertaken efforts to encourage community action in support of putting Connecticut's customers on a path to having 20% of their electricity supply come from clean, renewable energy sources by the year 2010.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the RTM of the Town of Branford commits to the goal of making at least 20% of its municipal energy purchases come from clean energy resources by the year 2010.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the RTM of Branford request First Selectwoman, Cheryl Morris, to create a Clean Energy Task Force comprised of not more than nine (9) City officials, municipal leaders, environmental organizations, businesses, institutions and/or interested citizens to research and make recommendations so that Branford can reach the 20% by 2010 goal. The Clean Energy Task Force will investigate options for meeting that goal, including purchasing Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) and/or onsite renewable energy installations, and research funding opportunities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the RTM commits to allocating 100% of any electricity savings to additional town purchases of clean energy and that the Clean Energy Task Force continues to oversee the progress of the town's commitment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Board of Selectman and members of the RTM encourages residents and businesses to choose the clean energy option on their electricity bill and to adopt the goals and purpose of promoting clean energy in Branford by purchasing clean energy through ConnecticutCleanEnergyOptions or with other Connecticut Class I Renewable Suppliers to advance this program.