

Resolution

Resolution Regarding Buncombe County Energy Independence

- Whereas, clean air, clean water and healthy lands are vital to the people of Buncombe County and Western North Carolina; and
- Whereas, reducing air pollution from electrical generation and combustion of fuel for vehicles improves public health and the health of the natural environment; and
- Whereas, our nation’s dependence on energy from regions of the world with hostile, undemocratic governments is a threat our economy and national security; and
- Whereas, the American Association for the Advancement of Science has determined, “The scientific evidence is clear: global climate change caused by human activities is occurring now, and it is a growing threat to society”; and
- Whereas, the National Academy of Sciences has determined, “Climate change is occurring, is caused largely by human activities, and poses significant risks for — and in many cases is already affecting — a broad range of human and natural systems”; and
- Whereas, the Geological Society of America has determined, “... global climate has warmed and that human activities (mainly greenhouse-gas emissions) account for most of the warming since the middle 1900s. If current trends continue, the projected increase in global temperature by the end of the twenty first century will result in large impacts on humans and other species,”; and
- Whereas, if unchecked, climate change threatens future generations with more frequent and severe storms and flooding, increasing droughts, water shortages, greater risk of severe wildfires, and low lying coastal regions are threatened by rising sea levels and greater storm surges, including North Carolina’s irreplaceable Outer Banks; and
- Whereas, there is strong scientific evidence that carbon emissions need to be reduced by 80% in order to avoid the most severe and irreversible impacts of climate change on future generations; and
- Whereas, Buncombe County has a history of taking a pro-active role in energy management, including the development of a 1.4 MW landfill gas project which converts methane pollution into useful energy, installing energy efficient windows in the County Courthouse, and utilizing a range of alternative fuel vehicles in the County fleet; and
- Whereas, Buncombe County commissioned an energy audit of its ten largest facilities by Shaw Environmental which identifies numerous steps that can be taken to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy costs; and

Whereas, Buncombe County is committed being a national leader for clean energy and demonstrating practical, achievable steps that can be taken to reduce carbon pollution and to be an example for other public sector and private sector organizations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners for the county of Buncombe as follows:

1. Buncombe County commits to reduce its carbon emissions by 2% annually until it achieves a total reduction of 80%. This commitment is inclusive of all direct County operations, including the energy required for its buildings and the fuel required for county vehicles.
2. Buncombe County Commissioners support implementation of the energy efficiency recommendations outlined in the Shaw Environmental audit for years 1- 5.
3. That this resolution shall be effective upon its adoption.

ADOPTED this the 3rd day of December, 2013.

ATTEST

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE
COUNTY OF BUNCOAMBE

KATHY HUGHES, CLERK TO THE BOARD

BY: _____
DAVID GANTT, CHAIRMAN

APPROVED AS TO FORM

COUNTY ATTORNEY