

CITY RESOLUTION NO. _____

COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A JOINT CITY COUNTY AND UTILITY BLUE HORIZONS COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR THE PURPOSE OF RESEARCHING, PRIORITIZING AND IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIES TO ADVANCE THE CITY AND COUNTY COMMUNITY WIDE RENEWABLE ENERGY GOALS THROUGH ENERGY EFFICIENCY, DEMAND SIDE MANAGEMENT AND RENEWABLE ENERGY INSTALLATION OPPORTUNITIES IN BUNCOMBE COUNTY.

WHEREAS, In early 2016 the City, County and Duke Energy Progress agreed to establish the Energy Innovation Task Force to meet the goals of avoiding construction of an additional fossil fuel powered generating facility in Asheville and co-create a clean energy future for the region; and

WHEREAS, the initial goal of avoiding construction of the additional fossil fuel powered generating facility has been accomplished; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Innovation Task Force, City of Asheville, Buncombe County, and Duke Energy Progress desire to continue the transition to a cleaner, affordable and smarter energy future in the region by continuing the work of the collaborative under the new name of Blue Horizons Community Council; and

WHEREAS, per City Council Resolution No. 18-279, the City established a goal to transition to 100% renewable energy from fossil fuel energy by December 31, 2030 and support the County's community-wide goal to transition to 100% renewable energy from fossil fuel energy by December 31, 2042; and

WHEREAS, per County Commission Resolution No. 17-12-06, the County established a goal to transition to 100% renewable energy from fossil fuel energy by December 31, 2042; and

WHEREAS, Duke Energy Progress has agreed to continue to co-convene with the City of Asheville and Buncombe County for the Blue Horizons Project Community Council to advance the City and County renewable energy goals through active community engagement and collaboration, deliberate investment in distributed energy resources and greater promotion of energy efficiency programs, subject to appropriate North Carolina Utilities Commission approval; and

WHEREAS, supporting a clean energy future will foster protection of our natural resources, increase resiliency, and facilitate growth of the clean energy industry in our region; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Horizons Community Council will engage with our community to provide cost effective services, programs, and new products they value through investment in clean renewable ways to power Western North Carolina, while keeping rates competitive; and

WHEREAS, Buncombe County residents and businesses have the ability to seize this opportunity to use renewable energy and participate in energy efficiency and demand side management programs to increase the region's resiliency and to become a model to other communities in the state and around the country;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BUNCOMBE COUNTY COMMISSION AND ASHEVILLE CITY COUNCIL THAT:

Buncombe County, the City of Asheville and Duke Energy Progress hereby established the Blue Horizons Community Council that will appoint members from local government, environmental and clean energy advocates, large and small businesses, local institutions and Duke Energy Progress to research, recommend and implement energy efficiency, demand side management and distributed energy technology in Buncombe County, subject to appropriate North Carolina Utility Commission approval. This Community Council will seek input from and engage with the public as an integral part of its work.

The Energy Innovation Task Force, having now accomplished its goal, is hereby dissolved, with any of its residual or remaining objectives and purposes to be assumed by the Blue Horizons Community Council.

Read, approved and adopted this 28th day of January 2020 by the Asheville City Council.

Read, approved and adopted this 21st day of January 2020 by the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners.

Buncombe County Commission Chair

Mayor, City of Asheville

County Clerk

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

County Attorney

City Attorney