

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

2005 CLEAN ENERGY ACTION PLAN

WHEREAS, local air quality is impaired by the burning of fossil fuels, which generates pollutants such as ozone, particulates, oxides of sulfur and other pollutants that have a deleterious effect on human health and the environment; and

WHEREAS, a scientific consensus has developed that the Earth's climate is being profoundly affected by carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases being released into the atmosphere by humankind's burning of fossil fuels, e.g.: coal, oil and gas, for electricity and transportation; and

WHEREAS, climate change scientists predict as a result more intense and frequent storms and hurricanes, global temperature increases, and sea level rise which will cause costly damage to New York infrastructure, and more than 160 countries have already pledged under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, Governor Pataki has issued Executive Order 111, which orders New York State agencies to "achieve a reduction in energy consumption by all buildings they own, lease, or operate, of 35% by 2010," and "shall procure increasing percentages of alternative fueled vehicles, including hybrid electric vehicles, as part of their annual vehicle acquisition plans," of 50% by 2005 and 100% by 2010; and

WHEREAS, Governor Pataki's Executive Order 111 also encourages local governments not subject to the Order to "review their energy efficiency practices and procedures, institute appropriate operational and maintenance modifications, and to accelerate the implementation of energy efficiency projects;" and

WHEREAS, the recent heightened focus on national security and combating terrorism call into question the nation's, and specifically Long Island's, dependence on foreign oil, when the world's largest reserves are located in extremely volatile regions of the Middle East; and

WHEREAS, the TOWN of _____ is committed to showing leadership in preserving Long Island's unique environment and is dedicated to maintaining a healthy local quality of life including clean air for its residents to the extent possible; and

WHEREAS, reducing air pollution is a shared responsibility, requiring the cooperation and participation of all communities and their community members; and

WHEREAS, local government actions taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase energy efficiency provide multiple local benefits including reducing energy expenditures, and saving money for the Town government, its businesses and its citizens, decreasing air pollution, and creating jobs by stimulating the Long Island supply of alternative energy providers & installers; and

WHEREAS, throughout 2004, the Neighborhood Network and Renewable Energy Long Island, through the Clean Energy Leadership Task Force, have been assisting municipalities in becoming educated about clean energy options, and the financial incentives available to municipalities;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the TOWN of _____ adopts the attached 2005 Clean Energy Action Plan as a guideline for efforts to reduce the TOWN'S dependency on fossil fuels and net emissions of greenhouse gasses and other air pollutants.