

Proposed: 5/19/2021

RESOLUTION NO. 62-2021 (AS),
First Reading

By Council Member Seren

A Resolution authorizing the City of Cleveland Heights to become a Power a Clean Future Ohio Community and to adopt a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the city.

WHEREAS, Power a Clean Future Ohio is an expansive, diverse coalition engaging with cities and local governments across the state of Ohio to build a clean future for our communities; and

WHEREAS, Power a Clean Future Ohio empowers local leaders with tools and resources to create carbon reduction plans and implement them in ways that are achievable, measurable, equitable, and economical; and

WHEREAS, steps taken toward carbon emissions also aim to improve community quality of life, building community capital and increasing government efficiency, accountability, and transparency; and

WHEREAS, local governments have the unique opportunity to achieve reductions in both energy use and carbon emissions, along with cost savings through building and facilities management, land use and transportation planning, and through economic and community development; and

WHEREAS, efforts to address energy and climate issues provide an opportunity to move toward energy self-reliance and greater community resiliency and quality of life, and further provide environmentally healthy and cheaper-to-operate public buildings, encourage new economic development and local jobs, and support local renewable energy production; and

WHEREAS, on December 7, 2020, the Council of the City of Cleveland Heights unanimously passed Resolution No. 138-2020, to encourage effective plans to address climate change, a pressing problem already affecting Cleveland Heights; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cleveland Heights has installed solar arrays on three government buildings, alongside other comprehensive measures to reduce its carbon footprint and improve energy efficiency, and continues to actively seek ways to reduce energy use and carbon emissions; and

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WHEREAS, uncertainty in energy prices and the transition away from fossil fuel energy sources present new challenges and opportunities to both the City of Cleveland Heights and to the economic health of its citizens and businesses; and

WHEREAS, climate changes have been observed in Ohio and have the potential to negatively impact local, regional and state economies, infrastructure development, drinking water supplies and recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, climate changes further have the potential to negatively impact habitat and ecological communities, including native fish and wildlife populations, to increase the spread of invasive species and exotic diseases, and pose flooding, drought, and health threats to our citizens; and

WHEREAS, Power a Clean Future Ohio assists in facilitating technical assistance for the implementation of these carbon reduction policies; and

WHEREAS, the Power a Clean Future Ohio provides cost-effective sustainable development policies in the following four categories: (1) Renewable Energy; (2) Energy Efficiency; (3) Transportation Electrification; and (4) Land Use.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, that:

SECTION 1. The Council of the City of Cleveland Heights does hereby authorize the City of Cleveland Heights (“the City”) to participate in Power a Clean Future Ohio (“PCFO”) that offers a free, voluntary continuous improvement framework. Passage of this participation resolution allows the City to be recognized as a Power a Clean Future Community.

SECTION 2. The City hereby commits to a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the City of Cleveland Heights by 30% by 2030, relative to 2021 levels.

SECTION 3. The City will develop a plan during Fiscal Year 2021 that lays out a roadmap for the City to achieve this goal and to proactively seek input from the community in developing this plan.

SECTION 4. The City will prioritize the lowest cost measures identified in the plan to meet energy needs to be mindful of the use of taxpayer dollars and any impact of consumers’ personal expenses.

SECTION 5. The City Manager or her designee shall serve as the City’s PCFO coordinator for implementation through Fiscal Year 2021. After December 31, 2021, the Mayor or designee shall serve as the City’s PCFO coordinator for implementation.

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SECTION 6. The City will facilitate the involvement of community members in an equitable way and other units of government as appropriate in the planning, promoting, and/or implementing of PCFO policies.

SECTION 7. The City will provide public feedback once per year on how well PCFO is serving the City and on City needs from the PCFO program.

SECTION 8. The City will claim credit for having implemented and will work at its own pace toward implementing any policies from at least two of the PCFO policy categories (i.e. Renewable Energy; Energy Efficiency; Transportation Electrification; and Land Use) that will result in carbon emission reductions, cost savings, and quality of life improvement.

SECTION 9. Notice of the passage of this Resolution shall be given by publishing the title and abstract of its contents, prepared by the Director of Law, once in one newspaper of general circulation in the City of Cleveland Heights.

SECTION 10. This Resolution shall take effect and be in force at the earliest time permitted by law.

JASON S. STEIN
President of the Council

AMY HIMMELEIN
Clerk of Council

PASSED: