

RESOLUTION NO.: 2023-053

Incorporate Energy Efficiency (EE) Measures and Power All City of Columbia, South Carolina Municipal and City Owned and Operated Investments and Infrastructures with the Generation of an Additional 75 MW of Energy from Non-Combustion Based Renewable Sources (NCBRS) by 2036

WHEREAS, incorporating energy efficiency (EE) measures and the generation of additional energy from non- combustion based renewable sources (NCBRS) will:

- improve the health and resilience of our families, particularly the most vulnerable across our community; and,
- improve air quality and water quality, and result in municipal cost reductions; and,
- provide opportunities for clean jobs, sustainable economic growth, and new investments in clean technology in our community; and
- result in greater municipal energy reliability; and,
- allow The City of Columbia to displace at least 75 MW of currently utilized non-renewable energy sources; and,
- provide opportunities for addressing existing environmental inequalities such as the reduction and transition of brownfields, vacant lots, and blighted areas within the city by prioritizing them for new non-combustion based renewable energy (NCBRE) infrastructure; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia values generating and/ or adding additional energy from NCBRS into the existing electric grid and electrification of the city's capital investments such as buildings, vehicles, and equipment, etc.; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia values employing multi-use land use to create, store, and deploy additional 75 MW of NCBRS into the existing electric grid; and,

WHEREAS, The City of Columbia values environmental justice and defines environmental justice as the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin and/or sovereignty, religion, gender, and income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of laws, regulations, and policies; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia values the financial and environmental benefits of NCBRE being shared equitably across all economic classes, and this can be achieved through such mechanisms as localized and/or community-based development of NCBRE infrastructure, equitable pricing structures, community solar programs in low- income communities, educational and training partnerships, and non-profit organization leadership; and,

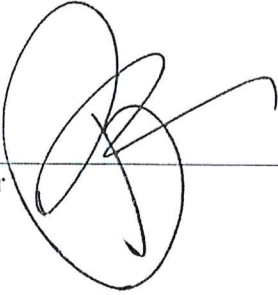
WHEREAS, the City of Columbia Council asks staff to take the necessary action to develop an action plan to include the items below;

- Completion of EE audits with 2021 as a baseline, on 25 percent of city owned investments and infrastructures by 2025; on 50 percent of city owned investments and infrastructures by 2028; and 100 percent of city owned investments and infrastructures by 2033 with recommended improvements and upgrades to be completed as soon as feasible after each audit is completed but no later than the end of 2036; and,
- Procurement or building of 75 MW of NCBRE in the Midlands region with 2021 as a baseline: by 2036; 25 MW by 2025, an additional 25 MW by 2030 for a total of 50 MW, and 25 additional MW for a total of 75 MW by 2036; and,
- Evaluation and incorporation as appropriate solar plus battery storage (SPS) on any new, leased, and/or retrofitted capital investments; and,
- Inclusion of a 60-day multi-stakeholder public input session as part of any new energy policy and/or investment which results in significant environmental impacts to adjacent properties and/or citizens; and,
- Creation of a city staff cohort to coordinate and facilitate all elements of this resolution, and create and maintain a public web-based dashboard which is updated at least monthly, and provide an annual public report on the city's progress; and,
- Coordinating with all City offices to develop, fund, and implement a comprehensive plan for improving EE and reducing energy consumption. The comprehensive plan shall be completed and made publically available by December 31, 2026, and shall be updated and made publically available at least every five years thereafter; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED this 18th day of July, 2023 that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Columbia commit to incorporate energy efficiency (EE) measures and power all City of Columbia, South Carolina municipal and city owned and operated investments and infrastructures with the generation of an additional 75 MW of energy from non-combustion based renewable energy (NCBRE) by 2036.

Requested by:

Mayor Rickenmann _____

Mayor 

Approved by:

C. E. Blady for Tanese Wilson
City Manager

Approved as to form:


City Attorney

ATTEST:
Tulka D. Hammond
City Clerk

Introduced: 7/18/2023

Final Reading: 7/18/2023