

RESOLUTION TO REAFFIRM COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT LOCAL ACTIONS TO REDUCE CLIMATE POLLUTION

WHEREAS, the County of Albemarle has adopted long-term strategic goals to protect natural resources, safeguard the quality of life of current and future generations, foster economic prosperity, and invest in critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, there is scientific consensus regarding the reality of climate change and the recognition that human activity, especially the combustion of fossil fuels that create greenhouse gases, is an important driver of climate change; and

WHEREAS, climate change has been widely recognized by government, business, academic, and other community leaders as a worldwide threat with the potential to harm our economy, safety, public health, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, climate change is known to negatively impact biological diversity and other natural resources, and the biodiversity action plan being developed by the County of Albemarle will address those impacts; and

WHEREAS, actions that reduce climate pollution and increase energy efficiencies will also lead to a cleaner environment, energy security, and a better quality of life for residents; and

WHEREAS, taking steps to increase energy efficiency and resilience can attract jobs and economic development opportunities to our community and increase our long-term economic competitiveness and wealth; and

WHEREAS, the County of Albemarle recognizes the role of local governments in influencing the community's impact on climate change; and

WHEREAS, the County of Albemarle is committed to demonstrating leadership in energy and carbon reductions at the local level, equipping the community to make informed decisions about the impacts of carbon emissions and energy, and promote actions that enable the community to reap the health, economic, and environmental benefits that accompany sound energy-based decisions; and

WHEREAS, the County of Albemarle has been deliberate and proactive in taking actions directly related to climate protection, including:

- endorsing a Cool Counties resolution in 2007 committing the County to a goal of reducing carbon emissions by 80% by 2050 (rescinded in 2011)
- collaborating with regional partners in 2009 to obtain a grant that funded the creation of Local Energy Alliance Program (LEAP)
- participating in the Local Climate Action Planning Process (LCAPP) concluding in 2011
- committing to fulfilling LCAPP recommendations by adopting an Environmental Stewardship Strategic Plan in 2013 with a review and update planned to begin in 2017
- publishing a Community Inventory of Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- achieving a bronze-level designation in 2017 through the national SolSmart program for adopting programs and practices that lower the cost and barriers for the community to go solar
- investing in energy-saving building upgrades, renewable energy like solar and wind, vehicles, and equipment; and

WHEREAS, for decades the County of Albemarle has promoted community planning principles that contribute towards a lower carbon footprint, including:

- managing growth and discouraging sprawl by designating 5% of the County as Development Areas and adopting Neighborhood Model principles of urban planning
- promoting a strong agricultural and forestal economy
- protecting natural resources
- promoting a multi-modal and environmentally-sound transportation network including mass transit and an extensive pedestrian and bicycle path network; and

WHEREAS, the County is joined in taking action on climate change by a global coalition of local, state, and national governments and community and business leaders; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Albemarle re-affirms its commitment to climate action and will continue to stand with cities, counties, and other public and private sector partners throughout the world to advance action in accordance with local and international goals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Albemarle will coordinate with community partners and local stakeholders to build on past measures by developing a climate action plan as part of an update to the County's 2013 Environmental Stewardship Strategic Plan beginning in 2017.

I, Claudette K. Borgersen, do hereby certify that the foregoing writing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution duly adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Albemarle County by a vote of _____ to _____, as recorded below, at a meeting held on _____.

Clerk, Board of County Supervisors

| | <u>Aye</u> | <u>Nay</u> |
|---------------|------------|------------|
| Mr. Dill | _____ | _____ |
| Ms. Mallek | _____ | _____ |
| Ms. McKeel | _____ | _____ |
| Ms. Palmer | _____ | _____ |
| Mr. Randolph | _____ | _____ |
| Mr. Sheffield | _____ | _____ |