

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 18-1158 Supporting Denver's Climate Action Plan Including 100% Renewable Electricity by 2030

WHEREAS, there is an overwhelming consensus among global scientists that climate change is an existential threat to planetary and human life, and the single most critical issue faced by Earth's family of nations, especially the most vulnerable communities around the globe, and the same scientific community has concluded that the single greatest contributor to the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that drive climate change is the combustion of fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, City Council concurs with the scientific models that the warming of the earth's climate results in the thinning of the polar ice caps, rising of ocean levels, temperatures, and an increase in extreme weather events such as wildfires, floods and droughts, all of which affect quality of life and economies throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, climate models predict Denver is expected to see a significant increase in the number of days of extreme heat; mountain snowpack will decline, decreasing Denver's water supply; and alpine habitat will be altered thereby threatening unique plant and animal life that make our state special and decreasing opportunities for mountain recreation and tourism; and

WHEREAS, significant social costs associated with the use of fossil fuels impact everyone, but often fall more heavily on low-income residents, communities of color, the young, and the elderly; and

WHEREAS, on April 17, 2017, Denver City Council issued Proclamation 17-0452 "Reaffirming Denver's Commitment to Planet-Friendly Policies," which urged Xcel Energy to meet 100% of our city's electricity demand through renewable sources by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the City and County of Denver (the City) has made strong commitments to decreasing GHG emissions and other pollution from fossil fuel energy sources including a recently updated Climate Action Plan, which was based on a robust stakeholder process and called for the reduction of GHG emissions by 80% by 2050 from a 2005 baseline, recommends Denver be powered by 100% renewable electricity by 2030, that commercial buildings reduce energy use 30% by 2030, that all new buildings be net zero energy by 2035, and that 100% of cars in the city be electric by 2050, and on June 1, 2017 Mayor Hancock announced the City's continued commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement; and

WHEREAS, Xcel Energy supplies electric service to the City and its consumers, so the utility's progress toward more renewable resources will determine how quickly and fully the City meets its climate goals; and the City and Xcel Energy signed the Energy Future Collaboration (EFC Partnership) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on February 28, 2018 committing Xcel Energy to help the City meet climate and energy goals through clean and renewable technology, energy efficiency, electric vehicles and grid resilience; and Denver committed to supporting efforts with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission that may be required along the way; and

WHEREAS, in Colorado "renewable energy" currently includes electricity derived from wind and solar, but elsewhere alternatives to fossil fuels include technology that may be appropriate as they are evaluated for sustainability and environmental justice impacts such as hydroelectric, geothermal or biomass; and

WHEREAS, renewable energy resources have been shown by a wide range of studies to be the most cost-effective and stable future sources of power generation and the cost is falling rapidly, and recent bids provided to Xcel Energy have shown that the costs of renewable electricity is lower than the cost of electricity produced from fossil fuels; and cost is a critical factor to be considered in how to transition to renewables to ensure vulnerable rate payers are not cost burdened; and

WHEREAS, a community reliant on efficient use of renewable energy resources gains a range of additional benefits, including , improved air quality, enhanced public health, quieter traffic, and opportunities for family-sustaining jobs in manufacturing, construction and servicing of renewable infrastructure; and all of the partners involved in this endeavor should strive to ensure renewable jobs are good jobs and that we expand training and access to careers in energy efficiency and renewable energy to uplift members of our community who need good jobs the most; and

WHEREAS, the petroleum-fueled transportation sector is a contributing factor to air pollution and climate change, and the electrification of cars, trucks and buses is needed to achieve deep reductions in pollution, and the transportation sector needs support to move toward the adoption of electric vehicles; and

WHEREAS, we wish to promote the public health and safety of current and future generations with access to clean air, clean water, and a livable environment, the City of Denver must lead by example by rapid investment into both energy efficiency and renewable energy on our own city buildings to ensure they are powered by 100% renewable electricity by 2025 and facilitate a city-wide transition to 100% renewable energy alongside other leading national and international communities that have prioritized addressing climate change by investing in their own healthier futures; and

WHEREAS, the financial and environmental benefits of renewable energy must be shared equitably across all economic and racial groups; and the City is committed to ensuring that all residents and businesses can access and benefit from renewable energy and energy efficiency, through processes such as community solar and inclusive financing; and a transition to 100% renewable energy should promote equity in energy and resource costs, and in ownership of green technologies; and

WHEREAS, transitioning to 100% renewable electricity generation by 2030 is critical to achieving an 80% reduction of GHG emissions below 2005 baseline levels by 2050 and ensuring Denver is reducing our impact on climate change in Colorado and globally.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. That the Council of the City and County of Denver pledges our support for the 80x50 Climate Action Plan, including the goal of meeting 100% of our city's electricity demand through renewable sources by 2030 and goals related to energy efficiency and electric vehicles.

Section 2. That to fulfill the goal of having all electricity consumed within Denver being generated from renewable energy sources by 2030, City Council commits to working with the Mayor's office, Xcel Energy, and the community and to continue to provide the public opportunities to participate in the process for planning, research, and implementation of renewable energy initiatives and to take other affirmative steps which advance policies or programs that promote and increase energy efficiency.

Section 3. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that copies be transmitted to:

- The Mayor of the City and County of Denver
- Xcel Energy
- Sustainability Coalition Partners

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL October 22, 2018

PRESIDENT