

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COMMISSION OF ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY:

WHEREAS, the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County strives to be a leader in environmental stewardship while fostering a positive climate for economic development and a vibrant community for personal growth; and

WHEREAS, displacement in the use of fossil fuels in the region with renewable fuels will improve air quality and help Athens-Clarke County remain in compliance with the ambient air quality standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and

WHEREAS, water is an increasingly valuable resource in Georgia, and producing one kilowatt-hour of energy via renewable systems can require approximately one-seventeenth as much water as producing one kilowatt-hour from a coal-fired plant; and

WHEREAS, Georgia generates approximately 88% of its power using non-renewable sources, thereby sending more than 30 billion dollars out of the state to purchase these fuels; and

WHEREAS, other large scale renewable energy technologies such as food waste digesters and combined heat and power plants are successfully used across the country; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County spent \$4.4 million for electricity and natural gas; and

WHEREAS, the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County has demonstrated the viability of renewable energy sources such as landfill gas, solar thermal, solar photovoltaic, and geothermal conditioning, thus being able to produce an average of 8,400,000 kilowatt hours per year; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Athens-Clarke County have approved the SPLOST 2011 referendum, which includes money to support energy efficiency and renewable energy deployment; and

WHEREAS, on November 3, 2015, the Athens-Clarke County Mayor and Commission approved the update to the Public Utilities Service Delivery Plan, which calls for a large solar installation to support the Cedar Creek Water Reclamation Facility; and

WHEREAS, the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County can use tools such as power purchase agreements, government-backed low interest financing, community supported installations, revolving funds, and renewable energy credit offsets to deploy renewable energy sources in an economically sound manner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Commission of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia:

Section 1: That the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County will continue to use environmentally and economically sound practices to increase the percentage of our municipal energy needs which is generated from renewable resources; and

Section 2: That the Unified Government will foster an environment that encourages the use of renewable energy by others in the community; and

Section 3: That the Mayor and Commission hereby direct the Manager to support this resolution.

SO RESOLVED, this 5 day of April, 2016.

By: Nancy B. Dennis
Mayor

Attest: S. J. Speth
Clerk of Commission