



Kriss Worthington

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ACTION CALENDAR

April 7, 2015

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington

Subject: Setting a Fifty Percent Citywide Solar Goal and Establishing a Solar Taskforce

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution setting a citywide solar goal of obtaining fifty percent of the City's energy needs from solar power by 2030 and establishing a solar taskforce to prioritize potential steps to achieve this goal.

BACKGROUND

According to PG&E, the current regional solar panel usage is sitting at five percent. Through the installation of solar paneling and the adoption of a citywide solar goal, the City of Berkeley would be leading by example and encouraging other cities to go solar and promote renewable energy.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Solar investment will mitigate or prevent the negative impacts of global warming as well as offer a non-polluting, reliable, and independent energy alternative. The City of Berkeley's Climate Action Plan adopted a citywide goal which has in turn motivated and activated numerous individuals to create policies and programs. Having a solar goal could accomplish the same positive benefits in relation to adoption of solar policies and programs.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Minimal costs for the establishment of a solar goal and taskforce.

CONTACT PERSON

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ATTACHMENT

1. Draft Resolution for Solar Goal and Taskforce

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

ADOPTING A CITYWIDE SOLAR GOAL AND TASKFORCE

WHEREAS, Berkeley recognizes the need to reduce the usage of fossil fuels that harm the environment and contribute to climate change; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley wishes to make sound economic investments in the future of the city by using local clean energy; and

WHEREAS, solar energy creates thousands of local jobs that cannot be outsourced; and

WHEREAS, according to Frontier Group's report "The Growing Role of Solar Energy in America," solar PV capacity increased in our state by 72% every year since 2012, California would only have to grow 19% per year to meet 50% of California's projected electricity demand by 2030; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous viable options that the solar taskforce may consider including but not limited to the following suggested alternatives:

1. Create an implementation plan to accomplish solarization of all feasible city buildings.
2. Re-incentivize the usage of solar panels on commercial and private buildings in response to net metering fees.
 - a. Offer priority permits to those seeking to implement solar panels.
 - b. Advocate for creation of a unified net metering process requiring utility companies to reduce net metering fees and streamline permitting processes.
3. Identify multiple financial mechanisms that may offer residents and businesses low-cost financing options for solar systems.
 - a. Property tax credit to incentivize solar adoption.
4. Create a system to hold the city accountable to the citywide solar goal.
 - a. Participate in the Solar Roadmap Program with the Federal Department of Energy.
5. Market solar systems to residents through a business-agnostic solar marketplace platform.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City of Berkeley hereby adopts a citywide goal of obtaining fifty percent of our energy needs from solar power by 2030. A task force composed of experts from relevant fields, is mandated to convene, research and propose a plan within six months of the establishment of the taskforce.