

**RESOLUTION NO. 20-146**

**A RESOLUTION OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA, RELATING TO SOLAR ENERGY; DIRECTING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO A SUBSCRIPTION AGREEMENT FOR DUKE ENERGY FLORIDA'S CLEAN ENERGY CONNECTION PROGRAM; PROVIDING FOR THE COUNTY TO RECEIVE SOLAR ENERGY CREDITS IN EXCHANGE FOR PAYING A MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION FEE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, Pinellas County (the "County") has been certified by the Florida Green Building Coalition as a "green" local government that implements and maintains sustainable practices in its daily government operations;

**WHEREAS**, the County has been certified by the U.S. Green Building Council as a LEED certified community according to its nationally accredited framework and benchmarking;

**WHEREAS**, Objective 3.1 of the County Strategic Plan calls for implementing green technologies and practices where practical;

**WHEREAS**, Objective 3.3 of the County Strategic Plan calls for protecting and improving the quality of our water, air, and other natural resources;

**WHEREAS**, Objective 4.4 of the County Strategic Plan calls for investing in infrastructure to meet current and future needs;

**WHEREAS**, Objective 5.1 of the County Strategic Plan calls for maximizing partner relationships and public outreach;

**WHEREAS**, Goal Seven of the Natural Resource Conservation and Management Element of the County Comprehensive Plan provides that "[The] County will be a leader in environmentally sustainable government operations, a proponent of smart and sustainable growth

management practices and will have a strong economy supported by sound environmental practices and will have a strong economy supported by sound environmental principles, programs, and practices”;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioner’s (the “Board”) Energy and Water Management Policy (Administrative Directive 06-11) sets goals for the County to reduce its electric consumption;

**WHEREAS**, the County is a founding member of the Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition, and an active participant in its Clean Energy Workgroup, which strives to achieve regional carbon reduction objectives through local government clean energy initiatives;

**WHEREAS**, the County is developing a Sustainability and Resiliency Action Plan to promote organizational and community-based sustainability and resiliency activities and programming in alignment with the County's Strategic Plan, structure, operations, and services;

**WHEREAS**, Duke Energy Florida (“Duke”) is investing \$1 billion to construct new solar plants throughout Florida from 2022 through 2024—which will produce 750 megawatts (MW) of newly available solar power to customers;

**WHEREAS**, through its new Clean Energy Connection Program (the “Program”), Duke is permitting customers to subscribe to kilowatt (KW) blocks of solar power produced by these solar plants in exchange for credit on the customer’s power bill, which is based on the customer’s subscription quantity and Duke’s solar energy output;

**WHEREAS**, Duke has reserved 75 MW for local governments participating in the Program;

**WHEREAS**, the County Administrator determined that a subscription of 68,318 KW would be the maximum appropriate allocation and preregistered with the Program;

**WHEREAS**, based on limited supply and high demand, Duke awarded the County 40% of its original request, or 27,293 KW per year;

**WHEREAS**, Duke has filed a petition for approval of the Program and associated tariff schedule with the State Public Service Commission (PSC) in Docket No. 20200176-EI;

**WHEREAS**, the Program is contingent upon approval by the PSC, which is scheduled to consider the Program in late 2020 or early 2021;

**WHEREAS**, if the Program is not approved by the PSC, the County owes zero dollars for the Program;

**WHEREAS**, the Board wishes to enroll in the Program;

**WHEREAS**, a written agreement with Duke formalizing Program enrollment for 27,293 KW blocks of solar power may be required; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board wishes to direct the County Administrator to execute any such requisite agreement on behalf of the County.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA:**

**SECTION 1.**

The Board urges the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) to approve the Duke Energy Florida Clean Energy Connection Program and associated tariff schedule in PSC Docket No. 20200176-EI.

**SECTION 2.**

The Board hereby directs, and delegates any requisite authority to, the County Administrator to enter into any requisite written agreement with Duke Energy Florida providing for County enrollment in the Duke Energy Florida Clean Energy Connection Program at a subscription amount of no less than 27,293 KW per year and at a rate of no greater than \$8.35 per KW.

**SECTION 3.**

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Commissioner Long offered the foregoing Resolution and moved its adoption, which was seconded by Commissioner Welch, and upon roll call the vote was:

AYES: Gerard, Eggers, Justice, Long, and Welch.

NAYS: None.

Absent and not voting: Peters and Seel.

APPROVED AS TO FORM

By:   
Office of the County Attorney