

RESOLUTION NO. 21 – 127

**A RESOLUTION OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA,
TARGETING A TRANSITION TO 100% RENEWABLE,
ZERO-EMISSION, CLEAN ENERGY FOR COUNTY
OPERATIONS BY 2040 AND COUNTYWIDE BY 2050;
DECLARING AN INTENTION TO FORM
PARTNERSHIPS TO REACH THESE CLEAN ENERGY
GOALS; DIRECTING COUNTY STAFF TO TAKE
MEASURES TO REACH THESE CLEAN ENERGY
GOALS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE
DATE.**

WHEREAS, the Federal Government’s 2018 Fourth National Climate Assessment issued dire warnings of the threat of climate change to infrastructure, ecosystems, economies, and social systems that provide essential benefits to communities;

WHEREAS, the United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (UN IPCC), the international community’s most respected assemblage of scientists, has concluded that human-induced climate change is affecting life-sustaining systems across the globe, leading to accelerating sea-level rise, with cascading effects for ecosystems and human security;

WHEREAS, in a 2018 Special Report, the UN IPCC specified global goals of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 45% by 2030 and to net zero emissions by 2050 in order to prevent the growing threat of abrupt and irreversible climate change;

WHEREAS, Pinellas County (the “County”) is a coastal community on the front lines of the environmental, economic, and public health impacts of climate change, as seen in the form of sea level rise, storm surge, and rising temperatures;

WHEREAS, the cost of renewable, zero-emission, “clean” energy (“Clean Energy”), including but not limited to energy derived from wind, solar, geothermal, and wave technology sources, has fallen dramatically over the past decade-plus and is now less than that for fossil fuels;

WHEREAS, the transition to Clean Energy represents an enormous economic opportunity for the County to save taxpayers money, create jobs in emerging industries, and expand prosperity for residents, as well as provide actions to improve air and water quality and protect public health;

WHEREAS, the County’s Comprehensive Plan Natural Resource Conservation and Management Element calls for the County to be a leader in environmental stewardship and sustainable practices, including the utilization of energy efficiency and sustainability design and operations;

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 water, air, and other natural resources;

WHEREAS, Objective 3.5 of the County Strategic Plan calls for a sustainable and resilient community that is prepared for sea level rise and a changing climate;

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

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, 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 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 Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified community according to its nationally accredited framework and benchmarking;

WHEREAS, the County has enrolled in the Duke Energy Florida Clean Energy Connection Program, whereby it will procure 27,542 KW blocks of solar energy per year, starting in 2022;

WHEREAS, in 2015, the Sierra Club launched the "Ready for 100" Program, which promotes 100% Clean Energy in the United States by 2050;

WHEREAS, nine states, fourteen counties, and 180 cities, including Dunedin, Largo, Safety Harbor, and St. Petersburg, have joined the Ready for 100 Program;

WHEREAS, five counties and forty-six cities have already achieved the (100% Clean Energy) goals of the Ready for 100 Program; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to support a Clean Energy future and join the Ready for 100 Program.

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

SECTION 1. The recitals above are incorporated herein.

SECTION 2. It is the goal and policy of the Board that 100% of all electricity consumed in county operations be Clean Energy by 2040, and that at least 50% of such electricity be Clean Energy by 2030.

SECTION 3. It is further the goal and policy of the Board that 100% of all electricity consumed countywide be Clean Energy by 2050.

SECTION 4. It is further the goal and policy of the Board to partner with other local governments, private organizations, and individuals to reach the Clean Energy targets set forth in Sections 2 and 3 above (the "Clean Energy Targets").

SECTION 5. The Board directs all departments to incorporate the Clean Energy Targets into their respective planning processes. To that end, departments must update any policies or processes necessary to meet the Clean Energy Targets.

SECTION 6. The Board directs all departments to work with residents, businesses, utility partners, and community stakeholders to identify a collaborative approach for achieving the Clean Energy Targets and set meaningful benchmarks and milestones between the Clean Energy Target Years (2030, 2040, 2050).

SECTION 7. The Board directs the Sustainability and Resiliency Coordinator to incorporate the Clean Energy Targets into the Sustainability and Resiliency Action Plan. The Board further directs the Sustainability and Resiliency Coordinator update the Board every two years on progress towards achieving the Clean Energy Targets, beginning in Fiscal Year 2022.

SECTION 8. The Board recognizes that the health and wellbeing of frontline communities have suffered disproportionately from pollution resulting from fossil fuel generation and distribution. Accordingly, the Board directs all departments to build inclusive community leadership and policy engagement; promote equity in accessing energy efficiency improvements; generate sustainable economic opportunities and mitigate related losses; and provide regional leadership to address equity in climate, energy, and related public health issues.

SECTION 9. This Resolution is effective immediately upon its adoption.

Commissioner Gerard offered the foregoing Resolution and moved its adoption, which was forwarded by Commissioner Seel. Upon roll call the vote was:

AYES: Eggers, Justice, Flowers, Gerard, Long, Peters, and Seel.

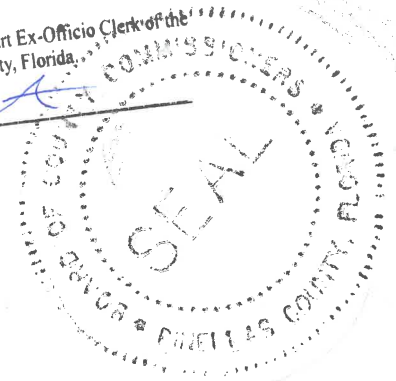
NAYS: None.

Absent and not Voting: None.

I, Kenneth P. Burke, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Clerk Ex-Officio, Board of County Commissioners, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original as it appears in the official files of the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County, Florida. Witness my hand and seal of said County FL this 15 day of November, 2021.

KENNETH P. BURKE, Clerk of the Circuit Court Ex-Officio Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners, Pinellas County, Florida.

By [Signature] Deputy Clerk



APPROVED AS TO FORM

By: Brendan Mackesey
Office of the County Attorney