

RESOLUTION # 2019-29

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING RENEWABLE ENERGY AND EMISSIONS
REDUCTION GOALS FOR SUMMIT COUNTY**

WHEREAS, Summit County is responsible to promote the public health, safety, and welfare of its residents, including access to clean air, clean water and a livable environment: and

WHEREAS, energy resources we utilize as a local government and community significantly impact public health, safety, and welfare, including the economic and social well-being of current and future residents: and

WHEREAS, there is unequivocal scientific consensus that human activity is significantly responsible for the continuing acceleration of a warming global climate, especially the combustion of fossil fuels that create greenhouse gases.

WHEREAS, Summit County is already feeling the local effects of a warming climate that threaten our environment, economy, and our residents' health, safety, welfare and overall quality of life, such as: shorter and warmer winters; wider variations in precipitation and snow pack; reduced stream flow and uncertainty about future water supplies; devastation to our forests as a result of drought, pests, and wild fires; and invasive species, disease vectors and other climate-related disruptions; and

WHEREAS, fossil-fuel based electricity generation cause about 30% of all greenhouse gas emissions in the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Summit County; and

WHEREAS, combustion of fossil fuels used in the transportation sector (air, rail, on-road and off-road vehicles) cause about 47% of all greenhouse gas emissions in the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Summit County; and

WHEREAS, because long-term consequences of energy derived from fossil-fuels will be devastating to Summit County and its agricultural, tourist and recreation-based economies and quality of life, it is critical that energy consumers and the utilities serving them work actively to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, transforming our electrical energy supply to 100% renewable sources by 2030 is possible by combining renewable power generation with energy efficiency, energy storage, demand management; and

WHEREAS, enhanced transit and transportation systems to reduce reliance on single occupancy vehicles, and transition to vehicles powered by alternative fuel sources is essential to reduce emissions attributable to the transportation sector; and

WHEREAS, in addition to mitigating climate impacts, such actions will provide a range of other community benefits including improved air quality, enhanced public health, increased

national and energy security, local energy-efficiency and renewable energy related jobs, reduced reliance on finite resources, and myriad other positive outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Summit County is committed to transitioning from fossil-fuel energy sources in collaboration with like-minded regional cities and counties that have committed to pursue strategies and policies to promote and facilitate clean energy and carbon reduction actions and policies to curb climate change; and

WHEREAS, achieving Summit County's climate goals will require the participation of individuals, governments, businesses and utilities; and Summit County recognizes the need to promote public awareness and education to its citizens concerning the environmental, health, economic, and societal benefits of pursuing a broad range of strategic measures including reducing reliance on and use of fossil-fuels, transitioning to clean energy sources to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and stop climate change; and

WHEREAS, access to the financial and environmental benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy must be shared equitably across all economic classes; Summit County needs to seek strategies and equitable cost structures that protect low-income members of the community; and

WHEREAS, Summit County adopted a county-wide climate action plan in July 2015, which charts a course of collective actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the County; and

WHEREAS, Summit County continues to implement the strategies outlined in the County's Climate Action Plan and to take other measures to support the Summit County Council's environmental stewardship strategic goal to reduce the County's contributions to greenhouse gas emissions and climate change; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, the Summit County Council reaffirmed environmental stewardship as one of its strategic effects.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Summit County, Utah, that:

1. Renewable Energy Goals: Summit County will implement strategies and policies to:
 - a. Transition to measured net 100% renewable electrical energy by 2030 for all of Summit County's government operations; goal includes 50% renewable electrical energy for Summit County government operations by 2025; and
 - b. Achieve an amount equivalent to 100% of the annual electric energy supply for participating customers from a renewable energy resource by 2030.Progress on these transitions, strategies and policies will be published biannually commencing in the first quarter of 2018.
2. Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Goals: Summit County will actively seek to:
 - a. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from County government operations by 80% below their 2016 level by 2040; and
 - b. Implement strategies and policies to encourage the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions countywide by 80% below their 2014 level by 2050.

The county operations emissions reductions will be measured against the 2016 county operations emissions inventory and published annually. Countywide emissions reductions will be measured against the 2014 community emissions baseline inventory, including emissions from energy use and transportation. Updated countywide greenhouse gas emissions inventories will be measured and published at least every five years commencing in the first quarter of 2020.

3. Biennial Renewable Energy Enhancements and Emissions Reductions Plans. In furtherance of Summit County's renewable energy promotion and carbon emissions reduction goals, on a biannual basis, Summit County staff will provide the Summit County Council with an updated renewable energy plan and a greenhouse gas reduction plan that will each contain proposed strategies to continue moving toward such goals during the ensuing two-year period, which will include (a) the proposed strategies to be implemented during such two-year period, (b) costs to be incurred by Summit County to implement such strategies, (c) costs that will be borne by Summit County residents if such strategies are implemented, and (d) the net greenhouse gas reductions that will be achieved by each such strategies.
4. Emphasis on Energy Efficiency. Summit County's initial preference for reducing greenhouse gases related to carbon based energy sources will be strategies and policies to increase energy efficiency. Accordingly, Summit County will pursue policies to increase energy efficiency in the public and private sectors through changes in Summit County's development codes, retrofits of existing buildings, incentives with respect to new developments and remodels, and exploring incentives, bulk purchasing programs and other means of assisting low-income households with achieving energy efficiency gains.
5. Transportation Changes. The transportation sector accounts for a significant portion of greenhouse gas emissions in Summit County, and it is essential to implement transit and transportation alternatives that address those emissions in order to achieve Summit County's climate goals.

Accordingly, Summit County will continue to enhance the efficiency of Summit County's public transit services. Improvements to transit services will include enhancing parking at transit centers or major transit stops to provide increased access, as well as implementing strategies such as micro-transit, to connect neighborhoods and areas underserved by transit.

Summit County will also prioritize infrastructure that promotes safe walking and bicycling to encourage active modes of transportation that have health benefits.

Summit County will seek to convert at least 50% of Summit County on-road passenger fleet vehicles (sedans, SUVs, light duty pick-up trucks, vans, etc.) to alternative fuel, hybrid, and electric vehicles by 2022. Summit County will provide the electric vehicle recharging infrastructure at County facilities as required to charge electric fleet vehicles.

Summit County will also work with major employers in Summit County to seek their cooperation to incentivize their employees to use public transit, van shares and carpools.

6. Community Design. Emphasis shall be given to the form and location of future development in Summit County. General Plans and Development Codes shall focus new growth towards compact in-fill within existing developed areas where sustainable infrastructure, multi-modal transportation, walkability, and the preservation of the natural environment can be better achieved.
7. Utility Collaboration. Summit County will collaborate with the current electric public utility, Rocky Mountain Power, to find means to accelerate the transition of electrical energy supplied to Summit County from renewable sources and minimize dependence on carbon-based fuels and to establish Summit County's preference for renewable energy projects.
8. Legislative Collaboration. Summit County will build relationships with regional partners and municipalities, and other counties that share similar energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction goals to seek opportunities to work with the Utah Legislature on measures to facilitate progress on the energy initiatives outlined in this resolution.
9. Triannual Review. The Summit County Council will review these requirements every three years to determine if climate changes, new technologies or other events require that these terms need to be modified.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of November, 2019.

ATTEST:

SUMMIT COUNTY COUNCIL
SUMMIT COUNTY, UTAH

Kent Jones
County Clerk

Roger Armstrong
Council Chair