

## **Commonwealth Green Communities Act of 2008**

### **Proposed Outline of Objectives for the City of Beverly**

#### ***1. Establish Energy Goals:***

- Meet at least 25 per cent of the electric load, including both capacity and energy, by the year 2020 with clean, demand side resources including: energy efficiency, load management, demand response, and generation that is located behind a customer's meter and is a combined heat and power system with an annual efficiency of 60 per cent or greater with the goal of 80 per cent annual efficiency for combined heat and power systems by 2020;
- Meet at least 20 per cent of the electric load by the year 2020 through new, clean energy generation;
- Reduce the use of fossil fuel in buildings by 10 per cent from 2007 levels by the year 2020 through the increased efficiency of both equipment and the building envelope;
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20 per cent from 1990 levels by the year 2020; and
- Develop a plan to reduce total energy consumption in the City of Beverly by at least 10 per cent by 2017 through the development and implementation of the Green Communities Program that utilizes renewable energy, demand reduction, conservation and energy efficiency. The City Council shall annually, no later than September 1st, establish an annual reduction target for the City for the following calendar year.

#### ***2. Develop financing from the Energy Efficiency and Green Communities Program***

- Research and develop loans and grants from the Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust Fund and the Alternative Compliance Fund to municipalities to finance the cost of energy efficient improvements, allowing them to realize energy savings.
- Create an expedited permitting process for the siting of clean energy generating facilities within the municipality.

#### ***3. Establish Least Cost Energy Planning***

- Require distribution companies to consider all available energy resources when purchasing power, and investigate the purchase of the most cost-effective and stable resources, with the goal of procuring all cost-effective energy efficiency and conservation prior to the acquisition of more expensive supply from more traditional sources.

***4. Implement Long Term Contracts for the Purchase of Renewable Energy***

- Establish a pilot program, requiring distribution companies to enter into cost-effective renewable 10-15 year energy contracts for the procurement of renewable energy, to help eliminate a barrier in the financing of renewable energy generation in the City of Beverly.

***5. Create an Advisory Committee for the City Council to evaluate Clean Energy programs and projects***

- Establish Clean Energy, under the supervision and control of elected city officials. The committee is vested with the duties of researching and developing viable clean energy projects and programs and shall focus on overseeing efficiency and renewable energy programs and projects where feasible and requested.

***6. Establish Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard***

- Investigate market incentives to alternative generation technologies operating in the state by evaluating a percentage of generation purchased by the city to come from combined heat and power, and other alternative energy technologies.

***7. Improve Utility Safety***

- Evaluate inspection and maintenance standards for electric and gas hook ups.
- Increase fines for failing to replace gas meters every 7 years.
- Request the City of Beverly be advised by the Department of Public Utilities to have oversight over holding companies in the event of a sale or merger of the utility company located in the state, allowing a public hearing to ensure the sale or merger is in the public's best interests.

***8. Liason with the Office of Ratepayer Advocacy***

- The Commonwealth will create an independent Office of the Ratepayer Advocate within the Attorney General's Office, authorized to intervene in administrative or judicial proceedings on behalf of consumers regarding matters involving rates. The City should be aware of and be informed by this body.

***9. Promote Fuel Efficient City-Owned Vehicles***

- Direct the municipality to replace city owned and operated vehicles with more fuel-efficient vehicles.

***11. Access the Alternative Vehicles Tax Deduction***

- Request an income tax deduction of \$2,000 for an individual who purchases a hybrid or alternative fuel vehicle.

***12. Investigate Smart Grid Pilot Program***

- Investigate the pilot program requiring each distribution company to file a plan establishing a “smart grid” program, whereby customers will receive automated information related to their energy demands in order to make more efficient choices regarding energy use.

***13. Establish Demand Response Pilot Program***

- Investigate the pilot program placing SMART METER technology in 5,000 residential and small commercial industrial locations, for the purpose of helping customers lower their monthly utility bills by reducing their electricity demand.

***14. Establish Energy Pay and Save Pilot Program***

- Evaluate the initiative that will direct the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs to establish a program whereby homeowners or tenants can purchase renewable energy products for the home with no up-front payment, and pay them off monthly on their utility bill.

***15. Increase Incentives for Installing Renewable Generation***

- Assist in the implementation and expansion of qualifications and increase incentives for solar and wind net-metering.

***16. Extend Low Interest Loans for Energy Efficient Home Improvements***

- Evaluate the initiative that will direct the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs to provide at least \$5 million in low interest loans for residential homeowners seeking to make energy efficient home improvements

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