

RESOLUTION NO. 1555

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
DERRY, DAUPHIN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, MAKING CLIMATE CHANGE AND
THE MITIGATION OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS
AN ONGOING FOCUS OF THE TOWNSHIP**

WHEREAS, the Township of Derry recognizes that climate change is one of the most critical sustainability issues threatening long-term human and environmental health, social well-being, and economic vitality of our community; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Article 1, Section 27, states that *“The people [of Pennsylvania] have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the natural, scenic, historic and aesthetic values of the environment”*^[1], and in June 2017 the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth reaffirmed the critical role of the state government in protecting our natural environment^[2]; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania reported that climate change has already begun to manifest itself in the Commonwealth in the form of higher temperatures and large storm events, decreased snow cover, and ecosystem destabilization^[3]; and

WHEREAS, fine particulate matter (2.5 microns in diameter or less, PM_{2.5}) from air pollution is responsible for nearly 12,000 deaths annually statewide due to cancer and diseases of the lung and heart, ranking Pennsylvania fourth in the nation according to a study from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology ^[4]; and

WHEREAS, statewide costs due to premature infant and adult deaths, increased rates of illness, and reduced agricultural yields from energy production have been estimated to be in excess of \$15 billion per year since 2002, ranking Pennsylvania among the top states for economic burden on its citizens according to a recent study from Carnegie Mellon University ^[5] with disproportionately heavy impacts likely among children and vulnerable populations^[6]; and

WHEREAS, in addition to direct threats to human health and the environment, the productivity of Pennsylvania businesses will continue to be undermined by adverse weather events with damage to infrastructure, higher operating costs, and reduced production in our agricultural sector; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the Commonwealth adopted the Pennsylvania Climate Change Act in 2008, which requires that the Department of Environmental Protection (hereinafter “DEP”) report on “the potential climate change impact and economic opportunities for this Commonwealth”^[7]; and

WHEREAS, the DEP, pursuant to Pennsylvania Climate Change Act, Section 7, was called upon to create a Climate Change Action Plan (hereinafter “CCAP”) focused on the reduction and offset of greenhouse gas (hereinafter “GHG”) emissions throughout the Commonwealth^[8]; and

WHEREAS, the DEP submitted the CCAP in 2009 and the CCAP Update in 2015^[9], finding that the plans created to reduce GHG emissions “have real potential to generate not only GHG reductions but also significant improvements in total employment, total income and real disposable personal income”; and

WHEREAS, an independent assessment of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) in the northeastern United States has concluded that cumulative health and productivity benefits estimated at \$5.7 billion have resulted over the first six years of implementation (2009 to 2014)^[10]; and

WHEREAS, municipalities in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, including Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Allentown, Bethlehem, Lancaster, State College, Easton, and Ferguson Township have already taken steps to address climate change by adopting climate change resolutions, CCAPs, and/or making a commitment to do so; and

WHEREAS, both public and private entities in the Township of Derry have already shown important commitments to climate change action including the enactment of the Stormwater Management Ordinance and the 2017 Zoning Ordinance incorporating Smart Growth principles^[11], as well as installation of the Township solar array^[12] and implementation of the TreeVitalize^[13], community bike share, and community garden initiatives^[14]; and

WHEREAS, the Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center has reduced energy consumption by 25 percent since 2005 with accompanying GHG reductions^[15], and The Hershey Company has adopted a set of “25 by 25” goals: 25 percent reduction in 2015 levels of water use, waste, and CO2 emissions by the year 2025^[16]; and

WHEREAS, by adopting a Climate Action resolution, the Township of Derry will continue to serve as a model community in central Pennsylvania and beyond as we act

to protect the health and welfare of our citizens, conserve Township resources, and promote the viability of our businesses; and

WHEREAS, citizens of the Township of Derry have gathered together to bring forward this resolution and desire to create a Climate Change Advisory Committee that is composed of members of the community and whose goals will be to identify the sources of and trends in GHG emissions in the Township and to recommend to the Board of Supervisors cost effective strategies for reducing or offsetting GHG emissions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Derry Board of Supervisors is committed to making climate change and the mitigation of GHG emissions an ongoing focus of the Township of Derry, with the goal of reducing the adverse climate impact on the Township; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township will support and encourage the goals of the Climate Change Advisory Committee, making relevant information about Township operations available to the committee, as appropriate; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that global warming mitigation and adaptation strategies will be integrated into key Township processes and planning, such as strategic plans, capital planning, budgeting, and training when possible or appropriate; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township of Derry will promote these efforts throughout Pennsylvania and the United States by example and will post this resolution on the Township's website to encourage other local governments to adopt a similar resolution.

DULY RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Derry, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania this _____ day of _____, 2018.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TOWNSHIP OF DERRY
DAUPHIN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

Secretary

Chairman

(Seal)

RESOURCES

- [1] Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Article 1, Section 27.
<https://codes.findlaw.com/pa/constitution-of-the-commonwealth-of-pennsylvania/pa-const-art-1-sect-27.html>
- [2] [Pennsylvania Environmental Defense Foundation v. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#). J-35-2016. Supreme Court of Pennsylvania Middle District; 2016.
- [3] Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. [DCNR and Climate Change: Planning for the Future](#). (2015).
- [4] Caiazzo F, Ashok A, Waitz IA, YimSHL, Barrett SRH. Air pollution and early deaths in the United States. Part I: Quantifying the impact of major sectors in 2005. *Atmospheric Environment* 79: 198-208; 2013. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.atmosenv.2013.05.081>
- [5] Jaramillo P and Muller NZ. [Air pollution emissions and damages from energy production in the U.S.](#): 2002–2011. *Energy Policy*. 2016; 90:202-211.
- [6] Sheffield PE, Landrigan PJ. [Global climate change and children's health: threats and strategies for prevention](#). *Environ Health Perspect*. 2011 Mar;119(3):291-8.
- [7] [Pennsylvania Climate Change Act](#). P.L. 935, No. 70, Cl 27; 2008.
- [8] PA DEP, [Pennsylvania Climate Change Action Plan](#) (2009).
- [9] PA DEP, [2015 Climate Change Action Plan Update](#) (2016)
- [10] Abt Associates. Analysis of the Public Health Impacts of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, 2009-2014.
<http://abtassociates.com/RGGI>; <http://www.abtassociates.com/projects/the-regional-greenhouse-gas-initiative-rggi-analysis>
- [11] <http://www.derrytownship.org/stormwater-management-ordinance>;
<http://www.derrytownship.org/proposed-zoning-ordinance-update>.
- [12] Derry Township News, Spring 2017 <http://www.derrytownship.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/2017Spring.pdf>.
- [13] PA DCNR TreeVitalize Program
<http://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Communities/CommunityTreeManagement/>

[14] Zagster Bike Sharing - <http://bike.zagster.com/hersheybikes/>

[15] Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center
<https://news.psu.edu/story/464082/2017/04/21/impact/initiatives-support-environmentally-conscious-growth-hershey-campus>.

[16] The Hershey Company
<https://www.thehersheycompany.com/content/dam/corporate-us/documents/csr-reports/2016-hershey-csr-report.pdf#page=15>