

DURHAM CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____

Dated: March 2016

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MAKING DURHAM A WORLD-CLASS SOLAR CITY

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina receives more than 250 days of sunshine per year, and last year installed more solar than every state but California; and

WHEREAS, the solar industry currently provides over 3,100 jobs to North Carolinians, has grown for six consecutive years, and has the potential to employ thousands more North Carolinians; and,

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina currently emits 72 million metric tons of carbon pollution annually to produce electricity; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina currently is powered by over 95% dirty fossil fuel and nuclear power plants that are often disproportionately located besides low-income communities and communities of color; and

WHEREAS, air and water pollution from fossil fuel power plants are linked to negative health impacts including asthma, heart diseases and cancers; and

WHEREAS, solar power is a clean source of energy with which North Carolina can power its homes, businesses, and cars to achieve better air quality, water quality and reduce carbon pollution; and

WHEREAS, the City of Durham is the fourth largest City in the State; and

WHEREAS, the City of Durham has adopted a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and Local Action Plan and has committed to reduce emissions by 30% from 2005 levels by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the City of Durham recognizes the above assets of solar power and desires to renew its commitment to this important clean energy solution;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Durham is the first North Carolina city to officially set its own goal of generating 15% of the electricity used by the City of Durham and its residents from solar by 2030; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Durham commits to develop a plan to obtain all of the city's energy from 100% clean, renewable energy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Durham commits to implement energy efficiency to reduce the city's overall energy usage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Durham calls on the State of North Carolina to follow Durham's lead in making North Carolina a leader in solar power, and to set a goal of having 700,000 solar roofs by 2030 and transitioning to 100% renewable energy by 2050.