

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2023 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-008-2023

Proposed by Council Member Hawkins

Introduced by Council Members Hawkins, Ivey, Blegay, Franklin, Oriadha, Watson and Fisher

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction January 10, 2023

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Solar Task Force

3 For the purpose of declaring the intent of the Prince George's County Council to establish a Solar
 4 Task Force to be responsible for leading the development of new solar PV programs and
 5 incentives, communicating the availability of these resources to Prince George's County's residents
 6 and commercial building owners, and engaging the community on the benefits of solar PV
 7 particularly, the financial aspects of solar PV; appointing members of the Solar Task Force; and
 8 generally regarding the establishment of the Solar Task Force.

9 WHEREAS, pursuant to CR-32-2022, the County Council adopted the Climate Action
 10 Commission's draft Climate Action Plan, and directed the Department of Environment to be the
 11 lead in the implementation of the twenty-six (26) priority recommendations in conjunction with
 12 other County agencies, the County Council and other government entities as well as additional
 13 non-government stakeholders for inclusion in the final Climate Action Implementation Plan; and

14 WHEREAS, the Council supported the actions of the County Executive, who by Executive
 15 Order No.5-2022 has established a Climate Action Implementation Task Force and Resident
 16 Advisory Group to develop strategies and actions to prioritize Climate Solutions in County
 17 Government Operations and to incorporate environmental justice and climate equity policy into
 18 decision making across the County Government's portfolio; and

19 WHEREAS, the Council supported the actions of the County Executive who by Executive
 20 Order No. 5-2022 directed the Department of the Environment to develop a final Climate Action
 21 Implementation Plan for Prince George's County recommending implementation strategies for
 22 Climate Action across the County Government that shall include a prioritization of these strategies

1 as well as costs and proposed funding mechanisms; and

2 WHEREAS, that this Climate Action Plan is part of an ongoing process of change and that
3 the Department of the Environment, with public input, will assess program efficacy and
4 community needs and will update the County's Climate Action Plan at regular intervals, and
5 provide status briefings and report to the County Council on at least an annual basis; and

6 WHEREAS, pursuant to CR-6-2023, the Climate Action Plan was permanently adopted;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, pursuant to the Adopted Climate Action Plan, Prince George's County has
9 several partnerships, incentives, and financing solutions in place that have already contributed to
10 more than 20,000 solar PV installations. However, recent estimates from Project Sunroof estimate
11 that up to 80% of buildings without solar PV in our region are viable for a roof-mounted solar PV
12 installation. Of the 338,766 residential and commercial electric accounts in Prince George's
13 County, only 6% of those accounts currently use solar PV; and

14 WHEREAS, pursuant to the Adopted Climate Action Plan, Prince George's County will
15 provide educational resources, explore innovative partnerships, and connect residents with
16 financing opportunities to facilitate an additional 60,000 solar installations by 2030. Bold action
17 to increase residential and commercial solar installations will also help the County remain a solar
18 energy leader within the State of Maryland by continuing to install more solar systems each year
19 and creating the most solar energy capacity; and

20 WHEREAS, pursuant to the Adopted Climate Action Plan, Prince George's County must
21 commit to protecting residential homes and personal property – our residents' most valuable assets
22 – from catastrophic effects of climate change including extreme storms and flooding. In addition,
23 the County can support residential resilience by encouraging the installation of distributed
24 renewable energy systems (especially solar), incentivizing energy efficiency upgrades, and
25 developing shelters or hubs to keep individuals safe during emergencies. The county should also
26 work to ensure the availability of safe, efficient, affordable homes for families at all income levels;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, pursuant to the Adopted Climate Action Plan, the County's Office of Central
29 Services (OCS) runs a number of Sustainable Energy Programs. Utilizing funding from the 2016
30 Pepco/Exelon merger and the general fund, OCS has implemented a program to improve the
31 energy efficiency of County facilities, generate renewable energy at those facilities, and enable

1 electric charging of fleet and private vehicles. The County completed its first solar canopy system
2 at 1301 McCormick Drive in partnership with Exelon/Constellation. Prince George’s County is
3 the number one producer of solar energy generation in Metropolitan Washington and has reduced
4 GHG by 12% since 2005; and

5 WHEREAS, pursuant to the Adopted Climate Action Plan, Prince George’s County’s Clean
6 Energy Program Solar Energy Grant was created to assist residents looking to access the benefits
7 of solar photovoltaic (PV) and/or solar water heaters to support more community-wide solar
8 installations. Under this grant program, financial incentives up to \$10,000 are made available to
9 cover costs associated with installing a solar PV system. Programs like these, which supplement
10 Federal incentives like the Investment Tax Credit, are essential in garnering public adoption of
11 renewable energy resources; and

12 WHEREAS, pursuant to the Adopted Climate Action Plan, to further support the generation
13 of clean energy in the region, Prince George’s County must actively engage and support the
14 deployment of on-site (also known as “distributed”) renewable energy generation, including solar
15 and geothermal. On-site renewable sources often generate excess power that could be stored on-
16 site by battery or sold back to energy providers for profit. When strategically deployed to support
17 grid resilience and paired with storage, on-site renewable energy can also provide significant
18 resiliency benefits when grid power is interrupted by storm events; and

19 WHEREAS, pursuant to the Adopted Climate Action Plan, while the deployment of solar
20 systems on residential and commercial buildings is essential, fostering renewable energy at a
21 scale that can support our economy requires implementing large scale renewable energy projects
22 as well. Prince George’s County is host to an increasing number of large-scale renewable energy
23 systems, and more than 10MW of community-scale solar projects is currently proposed. The
24 County can support large-scale solar projects by executing power purchase agreements (PPAs). A
25 PPA is an arrangement between a third-party developer and a customer. The developer installs,
26 owns, and operates an energy system on the customer’s property, and the customer purchases
27 the system’s electricity at a rate below what they would pay if purchasing from the traditional grid.
28 The County should evaluate opportunities to host large-scale solar projects on County-owned
29 properties. According to MWCOG to realize the full emission reduction and grid stabilization
30 potential of on-site solar photovoltaics (PV) installed across the region, approximately 10% of PV
31 installations will need to be paired with battery storage systems by 2030; and

1 WHEREAS, Section 506 of the Charter provides that the Council or County Executive may
 2 appoint, for designated periods, one or more temporary advisory boards of citizens of the County
 3 who shall assist in the consideration of County policies and programs; and

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's County,
 5 Maryland, that a Solar Task Force is hereby established to be responsible for leading the
 6 development of new solar PV programs and incentives, communicating the availability of these
 7 resources to Prince George's County's residents and commercial building owners, and engaging
 8 the community on the benefits of solar PV particularly the financial aspects of solar PV.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Solar Task Force shall:

- 10 1) Perform county-wide analysis of available private, commercial, and governmental rooftops,
 11 parking areas, and other suitable locations throughout the County for solar panels.
- 12 2) Identify barriers (financial, existing infrastructure, and code) to installing Solar PV and other
 13 renewable energy practices on both commercial and residential buildings.
- 14 3) Accommodate more rooftop solar by engaging with the Public Service Commission (PSC) to
 15 identify required approvals for two-way direction grid and streamline investment in necessary
 16 upgrades.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Solar Task Force shall be composed of eleven (11)
 18 members as follows:

19 The Director of the Department of the Environment or their designee, who shall serve as Chair of
 20 the Solar Task Force; the Director of the Office of Central Services (OCS) or their designee; the
 21 Director of the Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE) or their designee;
 22 a citizen member; a subject matter resident expert in the field of solar energy; the President of the
 23 Economic Development Corporation or their designee; two members affiliated with a non-profit
 24 environmental and/or social justice organizations in the County, designated by the Chair of the
 25 Council; a member representing residential and commercial buildings with the Maryland Building
 26 Industry Association (MBIA); a member that supplies solar energy in the County; and a third-
 27 party developer that engages in the execution of power purchase agreements.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Solar Task Force shall commence its duties as soon
 29 as feasible after adoption of this Resolution and shall have a term expiring on September 30,
 30 2026. If determined advantageous and desirable, the Solar Task Force may be reauthorized in
 31 subsequent years by Council Resolution; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council Administrator shall assign appropriate
2 technical and administrative support staff to assist the Solar Task Force in its work; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be sent by the Clerk of the
4 Council to the County Executive, the enumerated County departments, and to the other enumerated
5 members, institutions, businesses, and organizations set forth in the Resolution.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2023.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Thomas E. Dernoga
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council