

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH
CITY COUNCIL POLICY No. 2018-01

RENEWABLE ENERGY POLICY

WHEREAS, the goals of the City of Portsmouth, as expressed in its 2025 Master Plan, include a strong desire for the City to be more proactive in reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and the development of a local energy policy to move towards a 'net zero' carbon emissions goal to help mitigate the impacts of climate change for future generations; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 2017, the City Council voted unanimously to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter promoting the Paris Climate Agreement's goals calling for increasing efforts to cut Greenhouse Gas Emissions, create a clean energy economy, and stand for environmental justice; and

WHEREAS, the City Council supports this objective and with guidance from the Renewable Energy Committee supports actions and guidance to City Boards, Committees, and Departments to attain this goal;

NOW THEREFORE, the City Council adopts this Renewable Energy Policy to move Portsmouth towards becoming a 'Net Zero Energy' Community where, on a source energy basis, the actual energy consumed on an annual basis is less than or equal to locally generated renewable energy. The following levels are to be pursued concurrently by relying on improving energy efficiency, increasing renewable energy for electricity, and, over time, increasing renewable and clean energy for both heat and transportation:

Level I focuses on Municipal Government Operations achieving Net Zero Energy.

Level II focuses on the Portsmouth Community, including residences, business, and other non-municipal users such as the Pease Development Authority, achieving Net Zero Energy. Level II will also seek to examine low-income residents and environmental justice-related issues within the context of Portsmouth's Renewable Energy Policy.

Level III focuses first on all vehicles originating in and second on vehicles traveling through the City of Portsmouth achieving Net Zero Energy. Level III is distinct from Level II as an acknowledgement of the amount of time that may be required to accomplish this level.

This phased Renewable Energy Policy leaves the flexibility required to move Portsmouth towards becoming a Net Zero Energy Community through a combination of approaches, such as those suggested in the Renewable Energy Committee Final Report and Recommendations.

Adopted by the Portsmouth City Council on: **March 5, 2018**

Ratified by the Portsmouth City Council on: January 8, 2020

Kelli L. Barnaby, MMC, CMC, CNHMC
City Clerk