

Resolution reaffirming Franklin County's commitment to integrating environmental sustainability in county programs and policies and to do its part in global efforts that protect the viability of our planet for future generations. (Board of Commissioners)

WHEREAS, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners accepts the overwhelming scientific consensus that climate change is real, is a direct consequence of human activities, and poses legitimate threats to the quality of life for residents and businesses of Franklin County; and,

WHEREAS, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners understands the critical importance of a healthy environment to ensure the prosperity, health, and well-being of all Franklin County residents; and,

WHEREAS, public officials have a heightened responsibility to act purposefully and lead the way in the face of threats, as well as to seize opportunities for the betterment of their communities, including through environmental stewardship in programs and services; and,

WHEREAS, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners recognizes the continuing need for both mitigation and adaptation as best strategies to combat the on-going threats of climate change, and embraces environmental resiliency as a driver of future growth, and that the adoption of renewable energy and smart technologies creates a platform for the next generation of sustainable, living-wage jobs; and,

WHEREAS, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners is committed to pursuing policies that continue their leadership in protecting our environment and our communities for future generations; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO:

1. That the Board of Commissioners of Franklin County, Ohio, will conserve natural resources through energy efficiency in county operations, including commitments to optimize the purchasing of energy generated from renewable sources, the construction of high performance green buildings, the design and development of sustainable neighborhoods, and through the Energy Works program

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- which provides loan financing to Franklin County businesses and nonprofits for cost-effective, energy efficiency improvements, resulting in lower energy costs, fewer carbon emissions, and economic growth.
2. That the Board of Commissioners of Franklin County, Ohio, will protect environmental quality by reducing emissions and waste in county operations, including the deployment of alternate-fuel and hybrid electric vehicles, the diversion of waste from our landfill and waterways, including the smart policies to reduce food waste embraced in the Local Food Action Plan, and Franklin County's ongoing commitment to divert e-waste from county operations to the landfill.
 3. That the Board of Commissioners of Franklin County, Ohio will support the green energy economy through workforce partnerships that prepare Franklin County residents for the "green collar" jobs of the future, including investments in urban farming, and through strategic investments in entrepreneurship and economic development to ensure that Franklin County is positioned to flourish in budding fields of smart technology, clean energy, green building, and smart logistics.
 4. That the Board of Commissioners of Franklin County, Ohio, will endeavor to provide all Franklin County residents equity of access to clean air, fresh water, healthy food, and clean public spaces because environmental health is a matter of social justice for all people in our community.

Prepared by: Mike Hochron

cc: Commissioners
All county agencies