



Tompkins County Legislature

Governor Daniel D. Tompkins Building
Ithaca, NY 14850

Meeting: 04/19/16 05:30 PM
Department: Planning Department
Category: Environmental
Functional Category:

SCHEDULED

RESOLUTION NO. DOC ID: 6207 A

1 **Accepting the Tompkins County Energy Roadmap: Evaluating Our**
2 **Energy Resources**

3 WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan, adopted by the Legislature on March 3, 2015,
4 established the principle that “Tompkins County should be a place where the energy system meets community needs
5 without contributing additional greenhouse gasses to the atmosphere,” and the policies to “Reduce greenhouse gas
6 emissions to reach a minimum 80 percent reduction from 2008 levels by 2050 and reduce reliance on fossil fuels
7 across all sectors,” and
8

9 WHEREAS, the purpose of the *Tompkins County Energy Roadmap: Evaluating Our Energy Resources*
10 (Roadmap) is to evaluate local energy resources and develop scenarios to meet the County’s 80% greenhouse gas
11 (GHG) emission reduction goal and projected energy needs through 2050, and
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13 WHEREAS, Tompkins County retained an expert consultant to conduct an independent feasibility analysis of
14 the County’s energy potential, and
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16 WHEREAS, the Roadmap focuses on technical feasibility and rigorous analyses to quantify both the potential
17 to reduce energy demand and the potential to produce energy using local renewable resources, and demonstrates that,
18 in spite of the fact that Tompkins County has no exceptional renewable energy resources, it is possible to achieve the
19 GHG reduction goal, and
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21 WHEREAS, the Roadmap presents three future energy scenarios that utilize local potentials to reduce
22 greenhouse gas emissions by 80% and meet the County’s projected energy needs in 2050, and represent a wide range
23 of conditions which reflect the divergent ways that energy systems might evolve in the next 35 years, and
24

25 WHEREAS, it is hoped that the Roadmap will provide support for current activities by all residents,
26 businesses, and institutions in the community and inspire additional immediate action to reduce energy use and
27 transition to renewable energy, and
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29 WHEREAS, immediate actions are critical to reduce the worst impacts of climate change, as reductions
30 achieved now will continue to accrue in future years and have greater impact on future greenhouse gas concentrations
31 in the atmosphere, and
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33 WHEREAS, the Conclusions and Recommendations section of the Roadmap identifies priority actions the
34 County should take to meet 2050 energy needs and emissions goal, as well as interim goals to help inform work to
35 update the Tompkins County Energy Strategy, which is scheduled to be undertaken beginning in 2016, and
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37 WHEREAS, the Energy Roadmap Steering Committee has endorsed the recommendations in the Tompkins
38 County Energy Roadmap, and
39

40 WHEREAS, in recognition of the fact that the Energy Roadmap was developed with data available at the time
41 and that climate science is quickly evolving, as are policies and technologies to respond to climate change, every two
42 years staff will review changes in technology, government policies, climate science, economic conditions, or other
43 factors that should be considered in robust energy planning, now therefore be it
44

45 RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development and Environmental Quality Committee, That

- 1 the Tompkins County Legislature, accepts the *Tompkins County Energy Roadmap: Evaluating Our Energy Resources*,
- 2 dated March 2016.
- 3 **SEQR ACTION:** TYPE II-20