



MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 1, 2009

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Karla Brewster, Councilmember

REGARDING: Renewable Energy Resolution

Request for resolution on city buildings using renewable energy and implementing energy efficiency in existing buildings.

The city of Flagstaff promotes energy conservation and the use of renewable energy in addition to pledging to reduce its carbon output such as the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement. As such, the city should show, by example, that we are committed to those concepts. I would like to ask the council to consider an energy efficiency and renewable energies resolution with a goal to reduce the cost of energy to the city, using renewable sources. This will be a hedge against rising prices for fossil fuels and make us less dependent on them.

The City took the opportunity to reduce future greenhouse gas emissions from new construction with the adoption of Resolution 2008-32 that requires all new occupied city facilities to be built to the LEED Silver Certification level. While this resolution is a step in the right direction in terms of energy efficiency of new construction, it does not specifically address the use of renewable energy technologies and efficiency in existing buildings in order to further reduce dependence on fossil fueled energy production (e.g. coal, oil, gas).

Major investments in research are accelerating technological improvements which are increasing efficiency, reliability, and lowering costs. Renewable energy will be cost effective without the current federal and state tax credits and rebates before long. Communities that begin investing now will have the momentum and expertise to take advantage of the quickly changing research. Flagstaff is looking to grow the economy and also attract high paying jobs from companies that can compete on the national

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stage. The foresight of the city council to lead in driving this green economy will be a key factor in those companies deciding to incubate and grow or move here.

Through this Sec. 8, I would like to have a discussion with the Council about directing staff to create a resolution requiring the construction and use of renewable energy on new and existing facilities and to improve energy efficiency of existing buildings and the energy using equipment used in those buildings..