

BILL NO. _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE CITY COUNCIL'S COMMITMENT TO ESTABLISHING THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE AS THE GREENEST CITY IN AMERICA, AND REAFFIRMING THE CITY'S SUPPORT FOR RENEWABLE ELECTRIC ENERGY, PROTECTION OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT, WASTE REDUCTION, RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC EDUCATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, AND OTHER PRACTICES CONTRIBUTING TO ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN INDEPENDENCE.

WHEREAS, the city of Independence owns and operates its own electric utility, as well as a variety of facilities which consume significant amounts of electric energy, and,

WHEREAS, in 2014, the City Council approved Resolution 5933, which declared its support for energy efficiency and for increasing the use of renewable electric energy sources by Independence Power and Light, and,

WHEREAS, the City Council set the ambitious goals of ending energy production at the coal-fired Missouri City Plant and converting the Blue Valley Plant from coal by 2016, and voluntarily conforming with Missouri Renewable Energy Standard mandates by having 10% of the energy provided by IPL supplied from renewable sources by 2018, and expanding the use of renewable energy sources to 15% of energy production by 2021, and,

WHEREAS, the City has exceeded these targets, ending production at the Missouri City plant and converting the Blue Valley Plant from coal prior to the end of 2015, achieving in 2017 the goal of having 10% of the energy provided by IPL coming from renewable energy sources, and the City is on pace to reach the 15% renewable target well before 2021, and,

WHEREAS, the City's commitment to renewable energy and energy efficiency has been demonstrated in a number of ways, including: converting the entire City of Independence streetlight system to LED; building the award-winning LEED Platinum Independence Utility Center; establishing a community solar facility which will be the largest in the state after completion of its second phase; offering residents access to three separate Property Assessed Clean Energy Programs (PACE) for the financing of residential and commercial energy efficiency and renewable energy projects; subsidizing an in-house energy efficiency loan program; and adopting a variety of measures to increase energy efficiency in City facilities, and,

WHEREAS, the City's commitment to environmental sustainability goes beyond renewable energy and promotion of energy efficiency, embracing a wide range of sustainable practices, and,

WHEREAS, these sustainable practices include: establishing an innovative and widely recognized stream buffer protection program to enhance water quality in streams and rivers; adopting water treatment practices which not only comply with environmental regulations, but also result in drinking water consistently rated among the top five in the world for taste; sweeping streets and supporting community clean-up events to remove pollutants and debris from the environment; adopting policies and practices for the elimination of blighted structures; sponsoring collection events for household hazardous waste, electronics, prescription drugs, and bulk items; hosting the annual Eco-Fest event and producing a variety of materials to educate families about conservation, pollution, recycling, erosion, rain gardens, and other environmental topics; conducting tours to inform residents about what the

City is doing to provide a variety of services in an environmentally responsible manner; earning recognition yearly since 2001 as a Ground Water Guardian Community; permitting and supporting the reuse of former limestone mines into energy-efficient, temperature controlled manufacturing sites; preserving the natural environment through the management of over 843 acres of parkland; attaining designation for 15 years as a Tree City USA; providing and/or promoting transit options to help reduce emissions, including access to local and regional bus service and passenger rail; fostering walkability in the community by building or assisting with the establishment of over 54 miles of off-road trails with more to come, and requiring the construction of “Complete Streets” incorporating sidewalks and bike lanes, and,

WHEREAS, it is the City Council’s intention to reaffirm its commitment to sustainable practices in the City of Independence;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City Council hereby declares its commitment to establishing the City of Independence as the Greenest City in America.

SECTION 2. To advance this goal, the City Council reaffirms its support for energy efficiency and the development of renewable energy sources, including solar, and pledges to exceed Missouri Renewable Energy Standards.

SECTION 3. The City Council also reaffirms its support for a variety of other sustainable strategies, including the protection of the natural environment, waste reduction, responsible development, walkability, public education, and other sustainable practices.

SECTION 4. The City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to adopt such administrative measures as necessary and proper to carry out the wishes of the City Council as set forth in this resolution. Such measures may include, but are not limited to, completing studies and implementing findings to increase the energy efficiency of public facilities, reducing the waste stream generated by City employees and members of the public through increased educational efforts, seeking to increase the utilization of alternative fuel sources in the City fleet, increasing the availability of electric vehicle charging stations throughout the city, adopting environmentally friendly building design and construction codes, supporting the development of parks, trails, and multi-modal transportation options, and any such other measures as may be deemed advisable in advancing the City Council’s goal of becoming the Greenest City in America.

SECTION 5. The City Manager or their designee will from time to time, but no less than annually, report to the City Council about progress being made in attaining the designation of the Greenest City in America.

SECTION 6. The City Manager or their designee will seek opportunities to showcase the progress of Independence in becoming the Greenest City in America through industry-recognized associations and organizations, including, but not limited to, the International City/County Manager’s Association, the National League of Cities, the Missouri City/County Manager’s Association, the Missouri Municipal League, the Missouri Public Utility Alliance, and the American Public Power Association.

PASSED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2018, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI.

Presiding Officer of the City Council of the
City of Independence, Missouri

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

City Counselor

REVIEWED BY:

City Manager