

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-243

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA

**RE:** Support of Initiatives to Reduce Community Energy Use and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

**WHEREAS**, reliance upon non-renewable energy sources (i.e., fossil fuels - coal, oil, and gas) is the core of the United States' current energy infrastructure and economy;

**WHEREAS**, these sources are vulnerable to price fluctuations, supply interruptions and international influences; and government and academic forecasts indicate the trend of energy cost increases will persist over time, as demand increases and supply continues to decline; and

**WHEREAS**, the burning of fossil fuels accounts for more than 85% of greenhouse gas emissions, contributes a large portion of air and water pollutants and presents a significant challenge to the attainment of clean air and other public health and environmental goals; and

**WHEREAS**, reliance upon fossil fuels is imposing significant burdens (financial, health and environmental) on households, businesses and taxpayers; an innovative strategy toward conservation and alternative energy implementation will increase the adaptability of our community; and provide local and regional benefits in the form of economic development, job creation, municipal cost savings, prolonged fuel availability, decreased vulnerabilities to price increases and service disruptions and improvements to community health and environmental quality; and

**WHEREAS**, cost effective energy efficiency improvements are proven to lower business and governmental operating costs, increasing private sector profits and decreasing the costs of public services to taxpayers; and

**WHEREAS**, Sarasota County citizens place a high value on a healthy and sustainable community and are very knowledgeable about the benefits of energy and water efficiency and diversification of energy sources; and

**WHEREAS**, local governments greatly influence their community's energy usage by 1) exercising key powers over land use, transportation, building construction, air quality, water and solid waste management; 2) through procurement of goods and services and 3) through operational decisions that reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions and increase energy efficiency and which have the potential to provide multiple local benefits by decreasing air pollution, reducing energy expenditures, and saving money for the County government, its businesses and its citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, Sarasota County has demonstrated a strong commitment to addressing the critical challenges of national security through energy independence and dependence on non-renewable energy sources in its 2006 Roadmap to Sustainability, 2030 Challenge Resolution, green building and development policies, land use policies, green fleet and electrifying

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transportation initiatives, home energy retrofit incentives and through prudent management of its own energy use in the 2008 Energy Management Action Plan, among other actions.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of County Commissioners of Sarasota County, Florida, in public meeting assembled, that:

1. Sarasota County has established an energy conservation and clean energy vision to achieve an energy efficient and independent community, resilient to the forces of nature and economic cycles. Initiatives to accomplish that vision fall within the following strategic areas: Community Engagement, Planning and Design, Economic Development and Government Operations.
2. Sarasota County pledges to:
  - a. Join with other governments, both nationally and internationally, in implementing initiatives to reduce community energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.
  - b. Take a leadership role in increasing energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from County operations.
  - c. Maximize the opportunities for local businesses and residents to implement efficiency and conservation measures and move toward clean and renewable energy sources to diversify local energy resources.
  - d. Redouble its efforts to promote public awareness about the benefits of energy efficiency improvements and energy diversification and about the strategies for how to achieve significant savings.
  - e. Continue to operate a Local Air Pollution Control Program providing for the regulation of air pollution sources which contribute greenhouse gas emissions throughout the County.
  - f. Develop a Community Energy Action Plan which establishes goals for the reduction of energy use and associated emissions and outlines a County-wide program for the reduction of energy use.
3. Resolution No. 96-115 is hereby repealed.
4. This Resolution shall take effect upon adoption.

**PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Sarasota County, Florida, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of NOVEMBER 2010.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: *Nano Patterson*  
VICE Chairman

ATTEST:

KAREN E. RUSHING, Clerk of Circuit Court  
and Ex-Officio Clerk to the Board of County  
Commissioners of Sarasota County, Florida

By:

*Candida Javel*  
Deputy Clerk

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