



Monroe County Legislature

TED O'BRIEN
LEGISLATOR - DISTRICT 17

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April 7, 2008

To the Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
407 County Office Building
39 West Main Street
Rochester, New York 14614

Re: Renewable Energy Purchasing

Honorable Legislators:

Power generation from polluting, non-renewable resources such as oil and coal negatively affects human health and also significantly impacts wildlife, plants, and the natural environment, and has become a factor in conflicts over the world's dwindling non-renewable resources. Energy conservation alone is insufficient to reduce the serious negative impacts caused by fossil fuels used for energy generation.

On June 11, 2007, the gas-to-energy power plant at the Mill Seat Landfill began generating electricity, utilizing the methane gas produced by the landfill to turn "waste into watts." The power plant produces 4.8 megawatts of power, and prevents about 9,562 tons of methane gas and 27,342 tons of carbon dioxide, both known greenhouse gases, from entering the atmosphere. In the adopted 2008 Monroe County Budget, the Administration has set a 2008 objective to install and bring online two 800KW generators at the gas-to-energy facility. Clearly, Monroe County has an established commitment towards achieving greater energy independence.

The use of clean renewable energy sources, such as wind, solar, ocean, geothermal and hydro, has many benefits: minimal environmental impacts; increased income for local producers of such energy sources, and dramatic air quality improvement.

Monroe County wishes to continue to exercise leadership in this most important environmental effort. Therefore it should be the policy of Monroe County to improve environmental quality and redirect energy policy, promote energy efficiency, clean energy production and clean renewable energy markets.

New York State has set a goal of purchasing 20 percent of its own electricity from wind, solar, biomass and hydroelectric sources by 2010. The Renewable Portfolio Standard intends to make 25 percent of all power sold in the state come from renewable sources by



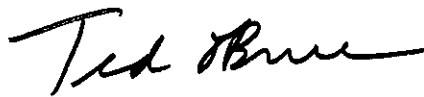
2013. Suffolk County, New York City, and a number of smaller cities and towns have set standards to increase local investment in alternative energy, setting goals to require a percentage of all purchased and consumed energy be produced by clean, renewable sources. For retail consumers, increasing the share of renewable electricity typically costs 1 to 2 cents per kilowatt.

Therefore, we request that this Honorable Body adopt a resolution stating that Monroe County will endeavor to purchase energy, produced in New York State, from non-polluting, renewable energy technologies with a goal of no less than 25 percent of all purchased energy by 2014. This resolution shall become effective upon its adoption.

Similar to the County Executive's referral 07-0260, entitled "Adopt a Green Building Policy for New Monroe County Construction and Major Renovation Projects," no net County support is required in the 2008 Monroe County Budget.

We recommend that this matter be referred to the appropriate committee(s) for favorable action by Your Honorable Body.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ted O'Brien
Legislator - District 17



Harry B. Bronson
Democratic Minority Leader



Carrie M. Andrews
Assistant Minority Leader



Calvin Lee, Jr.
Assistant Minority Leader



Richard A. Beebe
Legislator - District 6



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Legislator - District 8



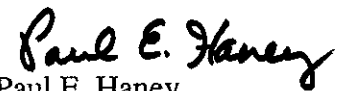
Travis R. Heider
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Vincent Esposito
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Cynthia W. Kaleh
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Jose A. Cruz
Legislator - District 29