

**Resolution in Support of a Goal
of 100% Clean Energy by 2050.**

A Resolution by the Augusta, Georgia Commission

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Augusta, Georgia Commission endorses the following goal: that Augusta, Georgia establish a transition from fossil fuel-based economy to a 100% clean renewable energy for all energy sectors, including transportation by December 31, 2050 to avoid climate catastrophe, to promote job creation and economic growth, and to protect the Earth for current and future generations from climate catastrophe. Further, Augusta, Georgia adopts a goal to achieve 80% clean renewable energy for all energy sectors by December 2030.

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2018.

Hardie Davis, Jr.
As its Mayor

Attest:

Lena J. Bonner, Clerk of Commission
Seal:

Zero Waste and Environmental Democracy

A Statement by the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League

Concern Citizens of Shell Bluff, Waynesboro, GA

Zero Waste forces us to examine our shared responsibilities for how we live and to acknowledge the impact of our actions on those who live around us.

The Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League began twenty-eight years ago with a commitment to earth stewardship, environmental democracy, social justice and community empowerment. Since that first campaign against a high-level nuclear waste dump, we have confronted hazardous waste and medical waste incinerators as well as numerous regional and multi-state solid waste dumps. BREDL chapters worked in their communities to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars and wage long public campaigns to win victories against very powerful corporations. The principles and commitment that we shared in 1984 are reflected in our goals for Zero Waste.

Zero Waste advocates face many difficult choices as they campaign for concepts such as Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), Clean Production and Cradle-to-Cradle ownership of products and waste. The goals of preserving resources and eliminating waste disposal require fundamental shifts in a consumer economy rooted in extraction, consumption, wasting and dumping. Corporate interests who profit from the current economic model control the process and have little incentive to adopt new ways of doing business. Changing consumer behavior in a marketplace contaminated with externalized costs presents an even greater challenge.

A consumption economy depends on constantly finding new places to dispose of waste. Waste companies understand the political process required to identify those communities where leaders can be convinced to take someone else's garbage. Often the same communities that have endured the extraction stage of production are now targeted to get the waste dump. Strip mines in the north and abandoned pine plantations in the south are popular targets. In general, they are rural, poor, minority, or conservative.

This leaves them vulnerable to offers of what we have termed "dumping for dollars." Wealthy cities may not notice the extra dollar per ton that is paid to an unknown rural county where commissioners are anxious about their declining tax base. The mega-dump is easily sold as economic development to county officials with an uneducated, often under-employed, workforce, and a few absentee corporate landowners. Waste companies know how to make this pitch. Every county needs a new school.

Recycling, waste reduction, resource recovery parks and Extended Producer Responsibility are all essential parts of any campaign for Zero Waste. Out of sight-out of mind landfills are not. Exporting waste to poor communities is not. "Dumping for dollars" is not.

We acknowledge the power of grassroots campaigns to create the conditions necessary for change. We support a Zero Waste movement that recognizes both the threats to landfill and incinerator communities and the opportunities to include those communities in the larger efforts essential for success. Our original principles and demands for environmental democracy still apply today.

**Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League
And the Concern Citizens of Shell Bluff a chapter member,
Waynesboro, GA. The Richmond County Neighborhood Association,
Augusta, GA**

**Resolution Supporting A GOAL OF 100% CLEAN ENERGY BY 2050
AND THE CREATION OF GREEN JOBS.**

Whereas, climate change has increased the global average surface temperature by 1.00 degrees Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit) since 1880;¹

Whereas, climate change is expected to increasingly impact temperatures, precipitation and sea level with harmful consequences in coming years;

Whereas, climate change and global average temperature increases are primarily due to human-caused fossil fuels emissions, including coal, oil and natural gas, according to the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, National Academy of Science, American Meteorological Society, United States Environmental Protection Agency, United States Department of Defense, and numerous other leading scientific, academic and governmental authorities both in the United States and internationally;

Whereas, a final agreement of the United Nations Conference of Parties (COP21), which included the United States and a total of 195 nations, was reached in Paris, France on December 12, 2015, that states the aim is to "holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels" and entered into force on November 4, 2016;^{2,3}

Whereas, scientists have concluded the concentration of carbon dioxide, the leading greenhouse gas, in the Earth's atmosphere is currently and consistently over 400 parts per million (ppm) and will likely stay above this level for the indefinite future for the first time in millions of years;⁴

Whereas, sixteen of the seventeen hottest years on record have occurred in the twenty-first century and 2016 is the hottest year on record;⁵

Whereas, an increase in the global average temperature, if not stopped, will have major adverse impacts on both the natural and human-made environments due to longer, more intense heat waves, prolonged droughts, rising sea levels, ocean acidification, and more intense and frequent extreme weather events;

Whereas, these physical effects are expected to lead to water scarcity, food insecurity, increasing numbers of refugees, increased poverty, and mass extinctions of species;

¹ <https://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-noaa-analyses-reveal-record-shattering-global-warm-temperatures-in-2015>

² <http://newsroom.unfccc.int/unfccc-newsroom/finale-cop21/>

³ http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9485.php

⁴ <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/04/science/atmospheric-carbon-dioxide-400-ppm.html>

⁵ http://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/15/science/2016-hottest-year-on-record.html?_r=0