



RESOLUTION 1275

RESOLUTION OF BOROUGH OF STATE COLLEGE ENDORING PENNSYLVANIA'S ENTRY INTO THE REGIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS INITIATIVE (RGGI)

WHEREAS, On June 3, 2019, in Resolution 1229, State College Borough committed to achieving net zero Greenhouse Gas emissions through 100 percent renewable energy by 2050 updating Resolution 944, declaring State College Borough a "Climate Protection Community", initiating a series of municipal practices compatible with GHG reduction and renewable energy use, and establishing our Sustainability committee ; and

WHEREAS, the State College Borough Home Rule Charter, Article IX, Section 1105, "Right to a Sustainable Future" states that, "All residents in State College Borough possess a right to a sustainable energy future, which includes, but is not limited to, the development, production, and use of energy from renewable fuel sources;" and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Article 1, Section 27 states that, "Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustees of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people;" and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania contributes approximately 1% of global GHG emissions, which, according to the Commonwealth's Third Pennsylvania Climate Impacts Assessment Report, is affecting agriculture, energy, human health, infrastructure, recreation, water quality, forests, and other ecosystems in Pennsylvania, and human health and ecological systems around the world; and

WHEREAS, As the fourth largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the nation, Pennsylvania has a responsibility to reduce our emissions, and joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) will put us on the right path; and

WHEREAS, RGGI includes ten New England & Mid-Atlantic states --- six with Democratic governors and four with Republican governors; and

WHEREAS, in joining RGGI each qualifying power plant must acquire CO2 allowances equal to the amount of CO2 emitted and while each state has its own allowance budget the only firm cap is a regional one; and

WHEREAS, CO2 emissions in from RGGI states have fallen by 47%, outpacing the rest of the country by 90%; and

WHEREAS, Electricity prices in RGGI states have fallen by 5.7%, while prices have increased in the rest of the country by 8.6%; and

WHEREAS, the combined economies of the RGGI states have grown by 47%, during the first ten years of the program, outpacing growth in the rest of the country by 31%; and.

WHEREAS, if the Commonwealth joins RGGI it could reduce its carbon emissions by 188 million tons over its first decade in the program, the equivalent to taking 35 million cars off the road; and

WHEREAS, joining RGGI will not only cut carbon pollution, but also reduce nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide pollution, yielding significant health benefits for Pennsylvanians. DEP projects that by joining RGGI, Pennsylvania will avoid an estimated hundreds of premature deaths and 30,000 hospital visits for respiratory illness such as asthma by 2030.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

1. That the Borough Council of the Borough of State College does hereby express its endorsement of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).
2. That this Resolution shall be sent to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, with copies to our State Representative(s), State Senator, and Governor.

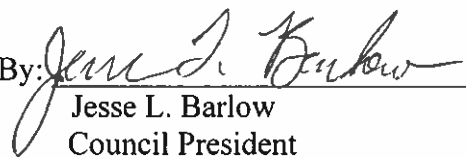
RESOLVED AND ADOPTED at a duly advertised public meeting on this 4th day of January, 2021.

ATTEST

BOROUGH OF STATE COLLEGE



Sharon K. Ergler
Assistant Borough Secretary

By: 

Jesse L. Barlow
Council President