

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

CITY OF LOWELL

In City Council

RESOLUTION

Authorizing the City Manager to initiate the process to amend its municipal aggregation plan, previously established pursuant to M.G.L. c. 164, § 134, so as to become responsible for the design and implementation of energy efficiency programs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has engaged in a process to establish a competitive market place through the restructuring of the electricity market and is implementing comprehensive energy efficiency plans; and

Citizens of Lowell have a substantial economic and social interest in terms of greater customer choice and greater opportunities for electric customers to benefit from the Commonwealth's energy efficiency programs; and

The City of Lowell hereby finds that it may be in the interest of its citizens who are electric ratepayers, both residential and commercial/industrial, to develop and secure such approvals and enter into appropriate agreements with consultants, experts and attorneys in connection with the design and implementation of energy efficiency programs pursuant to the City's electricity aggregation plan, and further to adopt the following resolution:

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the City of Lowell hereby:

Publicly declares its intent to take such actions as may be necessary to modify its electric aggregation plan to implement energy efficiency programs on behalf of its residential and business electric customers and to reestablish such plan if its operation is suspended or such actions are deemed necessary and appropriate.

This resolution is adopted by vote of the City Council on the 24th day of April, 2018.

Submitted by:

CITY COUNCIL – CITY OF LOWELL

Mayor William Samaras

Edward J. Kennedy

Karen Cirillo

John J. Leahy

David Conway

Rita M. Mercier

Rodney M. Elliott

James L. Milinazzo

Vesna Nuon

Eileen M. Donoghue
City Manager

April 19, 2018

Mayor William Samaras
and
Members of the City Council

SUBJECT: Resolution to Amend Lowell Municipal Aggregation Plan to Include Design and Implementation of Energy Efficiency Plan

Dear Mayor Samaras and Members of the City Council:

On July 28, 2015, Councilor Kennedy made a motion to have the City Manager explore having the City secure and administer energy efficiency funds paid by Lowell electricity ratepayers. These funds are currently administered by National Grid. Development of an energy efficiency plan is also included in the Sustainable Lowell 2025 Master Plan and will help lower the consumption of electricity, which is aligned with the City Council resolution of August 22, 2017 to become a 100% renewable City by 2035. The attached resolution will allow the City to express support to the Department of Public Utilities to begin the process of developing a Lowell-specific energy efficiency plan. If the resolution is supported, a draft plan would be submitted to the City Council at the end of April 2018 for your endorsement. If successful, the plan would then begin to be implemented at the beginning of calendar year 2019.

Under Massachusetts G.L. c. 164 §134(b), a municipal aggregator may pursue the development of an Energy Efficiency Plan. This law states, in part, "A municipality or group of municipalities establishing a load aggregation program pursuant to subsection (a) may, by a vote of its town meeting or legislative body, whichever is applicable, adopt an energy plan which shall define the manner in which the municipality or municipalities may implement demand side management programs and renewable energy programs that are consistent with any state energy conservation goals developed pursuant to chapter 25A or chapter 164."

The development of the Lowell Energy Efficiency Plan (LEEP) would focus on structuring incentives and rebates to address energy efficiency within the City and providing funding for programs to establish a local green collar workforce. The green collar workforce includes workers and businesses with the goal of improving the quality of the environment. Funding levels for LEEP are estimated to be around **\$8 million** annually.

Your favorable support of this resolution is appreciated.

Sincerely,


Eileen M. Donoghue
City Manager

EMD/ns

Attachment

cc: Christine P. O'Connor, City Solicitor
Diane Tradd, Assistant City Manager/DPD Director
Philip Ferreira, Housing and Energy Program Manager
Katherine Moses, Energy Manager