

Resolution No. 35 -13
Resolution in Support of Clean Energy Choice for Wisconsin

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE POLK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Ladies and Gentlemen:

WHEREAS, Polk County has pursued the goal of becoming more sustainable in its planning, operation, management and policymaking by implementing numerous projects, initiative, and policies that save energy, reduce waste and conserve natural resources while supporting a healthy economy; and

WHEREAS, such recent County initiatives include window replacement and roof insulation at Golden Age Manor, lighting project at the Highway Department Garage, LED exit lighting at the Government Center and Justice Center, and installation of automatic door openers at the highway department; and

WHEREAS, Clean Energy Choice will expand market opportunities for Polk County and Wisconsin companies and their employees who are part of the state's renewable energy supply chain by integrating locally available renewable energy into our economy and by engaging local manufacturers, distributors and installers, farmers, builders, entrepreneurs, and related professional workers; and

WHEREAS, Polk County urges the State of Wisconsin to adopt a policy expressly allowing customers to enter into contracts with third parties who install, own, and operate a renewable energy system at the customer's premises by supporting Clean Energy Choice which will help households and businesses overcome the diminishing supply of renewable energy incentive dollars available from Wisconsin's Focus on Energy program and utilities at no extra cost to ratepayers and taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, current ambiguities in state law make it difficult for customers to access directly clean renewable energy produced on their premises from systems owned by third parties, and more and more states have adopted policies expressly authorizing these types of arrangements with third parties; and

WHEREAS, the businesses, residents schools and local governments in Polk County desire to exercise responsibility over their long term energy choices and integrate clean energy into their daily lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Polk County Board of Supervisors endorses Clean Energy Choice as a policy for Wisconsin residents;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Polk County Board of Supervisors directs the county clerk to forward this resolution to the Governor, representatives for the state legislators, the Wisconsin Counties Association and all Wisconsin Counties.

Funding Amount and Source:	Not Applicable
Date Finance Committee Advised:	Not Applicable
Finance Committee Recommendation:	Not Applicable
Effective Date:	Upon Passage

Submitted and Sponsored By: <u>Tom Engell</u>	Renewable Energy Committee
<u>David Muller</u>	<u>Marlin Baillargeon</u>
<u>Joseph M. Cronch</u>	<u>Dary Dado</u>
<u>Wm Johnson</u>	<u>Jeff Kuhl</u>

Submitted and Sponsored By: <u>Tom Engell</u>	Parks & Forestry, Buildings, & Solid Waste
<u>Wm Johnson</u>	
<u>Wm Johnson</u>	
<u>Wm Johnson</u>	

Review by County Administrator:	Review By Corporation Counsel
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommended <input type="checkbox"/> Not Recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reviewed Only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved as to Form <input type="checkbox"/> Recommended <input type="checkbox"/> Not Recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reviewed Only
<u>Dana Frey</u> Dana Frey, County Administrator	<u>Jeffrey B. Fuge</u> Jeffrey B. Fuge, Corporation Counsel

County Board Action

At its regular business meeting on October 15, 2013, the Polk County Board of Supervisors adopted the above-entitled resolution, Resolution No. 35-13: Resolution in Support of Clean Energy Choice For Wisconsin, by a simple majority vote of by unanimous voice vote in favor and — against.

William Johnson, IV
 William Johnson, IV, County Board Chairperson

Dated: 10-22-13

Attest: Carole Y. Wondra
 Carole Wondra, Polk County

Dated: 10-22-13

Third-Party Ownership

Third-party financing is increasingly a preferred means of financing on-site renewable energy generation, particularly for commercial customers. Under these types of arrangements, a resident or business hosts a renewable system that is owned by a separate investor. Third-party financing arrangements are particularly beneficial for entities that cannot claim tax credits (such as governments, schools and nonprofits) and for entities that either lack initial investment capital to purchase a system or the desire to own and maintain an on-site renewable energy system. Under a third-party financing arrangement, an investor monetizes available incentives (e.g. tax credits, rebates and depreciation deductions). The investor then sells electricity produced by a system to a host entity at lower rates than the host customer may otherwise be able to benefit from, if the customer were to invest directly in the system.

Third party financing mechanisms include both power purchase agreements (PPA) and leasing arrangements. With a PPA, the host agrees to purchase all the energy produced onsite. Any excess generation is typically subject to a net metering arrangement between the host customer and a utility. With a leasing arrangement, the host agrees to pay a fixed monthly fee that is not directly based on the amount of on-site generation.

For economic reasons, most small-scale renewable energy facilities in the country are owned and installed by third parties. It is often easier for third parties to take advantage of federal credits and business depreciation, while relieving the property owner of the responsibility of financing the system and building it. Grow Solar Wisconsin team member RENEW is working to advance a policy fix that removes the legal ambiguities surrounding the sale of energy from third-party-owned systems to host customers.

From: <http://www.growsolar.org/toolbox/third-party-ownership/>

