

Support Builds to Address Climate Change and to Develop Transition to 100% Renewable Energy in Fredericksburg

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Support is growing for a transition to 100% renewable energy in Fredericksburg, at least judging by resolutions recently supported in city government and at the University of Mary Washington.



On Wednesday, October 23rd, the University Faculty Council at UMW (the equivalent of a faculty senate) unanimously endorsed a resolution acknowledging the serious risks of climate change and calling for a transition to 100% renewable energy. This goal is in line with Governor Ralph Northam's Executive Order #43 made earlier this fall requiring state agencies to become powered by 100% renewable energy by the same year. A copy of the University Faculty Council resolution can be found online at: <https://fossilfreefredericksburg.com/umw-faculty-resolution/>

On October 7th, the City of Fredericksburg's Clean and Green Commission unanimously endorsed a separate resolution submitted by Fossil Free Fredericksburg for the City Council to commit to powering the city government with 100% renewable energy by 2035 or earlier, and for the entire city of Fredericksburg to receive its power from clean sources by 2050 or sooner. With the Clean and Green Commission's support, the proposed resolution is now being considered by members of the Fredericksburg City Council. The draft resolution endorsed by the commission can be viewed here: <https://fossilfreefredericksburg.com/fff-resolution-for-100-renewable-energy/>

More than 130 other cities and communities in the United States, including Charlottesville and Blacksburg, VA, have made commitments to move toward 100% renewable energy and away from the fossil fuels that are driving climate change.

According to Fossil Free Fredericksburg steering committee member, Julie Kay, "what was once called 'climate change' just a year ago is now a 'climate crisis.' Urgent action is needed to slow down the dramatic changes that are happening to our world: glaciers are melting, storms and temperatures are intensifying, and seas are warming and rising. Fortunately, people all over the world, including in our own hometown, are developing the tools to counteract it."

Fredericksburg resident Kay went on to say that, "clean energy costs are now affordable and continue to drop in price, green jobs are being created, and communities across America and the world are taking action to prevent irreparable damage."

Fossil Free Fredericksburg is a multi-generational community group working to raise awareness about the dire nature of climate change and seeking to build support for a transition to renewable energy. The local organization has worked to give presentations to area-groups about climate change, organizes the now annual “Walk and Pedal for the Planet” event at Old Mill Park, and holds a youth conference on climate solutions, among other activities.

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