

TOWN OF SCARBOROUGH, MAINE

RESOLUTION 17-002

**SUPPORTING COMMUNITY APPROACH TO EXPANDING
DISTRIBUTED POWER GENERATION OPTIONS FOR
MUNICIPALITIES, BUSINESSES AND HOMEOWNERS**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Town of Scarborough, Maine, in Town Council assembled that,

WHEREAS, historically the generation of power locally was a major factor driving community and economic development in towns and cities across Maine and New England; and,

WHEREAS, the ability of a municipality to offer locally generated power at stable long term rates would be important tool for supporting sustainable community and economic development; and,

WHEREAS, advances in technology and declines in installed system prices now make a variety of community scale options viable; and,

WHEREAS, at the end of 2016 the cost of power generated by community based renewable energy systems was in the range of \$0.049 to \$0.078/kWh and thus competitive with other sources; and

WHEREAS, there are currently over 1,800 acres of closed and capped municipal landfills in Maine for which there are few, if any, common reuse or redevelopment options; and,

WHEREAS, U.S. EPA has determined that developing solar power projects on capped landfills and other brownfield sites often represents the best reuse option; and,

WHEREAS, generating power at or near the location where the power is used can be a cost effective option both to minimize stress on the transmission grid and to minimize the cost to all ratepayers of grid expansion projects; and,

WHEREAS, Maine's current regulations governing distributed power generation, which limit system size and the number of users or locations that can subscribe to power from a local source, create significant barriers to developing cost effective projects in Maine communities; and,

WHEREAS, in 2015 and 2016 many parties participated in a stakeholder process at the Public Utilities Commission and in a subsequent legislative process in support of statutory changes that would have created a framework for, and removed barriers to, community distributed generation projects; and,

WHEREAS, last year a comprehensive and collaboratively supported solar bill (LD 1649) won broad bipartisan support in both the House and Senate but fell short of enactment, after which the Maine Public Utilities Commission voted to phase out net metering even in the absence of any new policy; and,

WHEREAS, there are four (4) bills pending in the current legislative session that in one way or another intend to advance reforms to solar policy in Maine; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Town of Scarborough generally supports reforms to solar policy that enable the development of cost-effective municipal, small business and community solar projects in Maine and urges the First Regular Session of the 128th Maine Legislature to adopt these changes; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Manager as well as the Sustainability Coordinator are authorized to communicate the Council's support of the same to the Legislature's Energy and Utilities Committee, to State Representatives and Senators, to the Public Utilities Commission and to other municipalities.

Signed and sealed this the 3rd day of May 2017, on behalf of the Scarborough Town Council and the Town Manager of Scarborough, Maine.

Signed by:

/s/ Shawn A. Babine
Council Chair

Attested by:

/s/ Yolande P. Justice
Town Clerk