

RESOLUTION NO. 07-21-26

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT
IN SUPPORT OF 100 PERCENT CARBON-NEUTRAL ENERGY**

WHEREAS, too much of Minnesota's energy comes from fossil fuels that pollute our air and water and alter our climate; and,

WHEREAS, there is overwhelming scientific consensus that climate change is a real and major threat to human civilization and is caused primarily by the combustion of fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, the greatest burden resulting from an inadequate response to climate change will be borne by young people, future generations, and the poorest and most vulnerable communities around the globe; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota communities are already feeling the impacts of climate change; and,

WHEREAS, Xcel energy, the largest provider of power to La Crescent, has committed to 100 percent carbon-free energy by 2050 (1); and,

WHEREAS, the City of La Crescent is already taking action to reduce its municipal carbon emissions and promote clean energy, including becoming a MN Green Steps city, B3 Benchmarking, solar PV installations on municipal buildings, retrofitting of LED lights, and purchase of solar electricity credits; and,

WHEREAS, carbon-free energy has brought many benefits to Minnesota, including reduced pollution (2), tens of thousands of clean energy jobs (3), and more of our energy dollars retained in the local economy; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota has historically been a leader in the fight against climate change (4), and has a responsibility to continue to set a positive example for other states and countries to follow; and

WHEREAS, the City of La Crescent can get 100 percent of its municipal electric energy needs from clean, carbon-free energy sources by 2030 (5);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of La Crescent, in the County of Houston, State of Minnesota, that the City of La Crescent should commit to a goal of 100 percent clean, carbon-neutral energy, and move as quickly as economically feasible to achieve that goal;

To meet the goal of 100 percent carbon-neutral energy the city will:

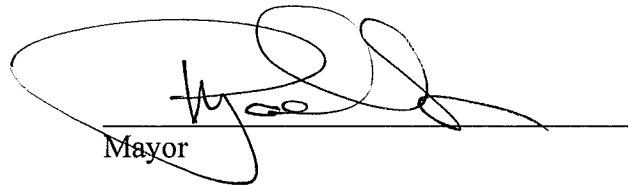
- Meet 100 percent of its municipal electric energy needs from carbon-free energy sources by 2030.

- Meet 100 percent of the community's electric energy needs from carbon-neutral energy resources by 2035.
- Achieve net-zero emissions of communitywide energy use by 2050.
- City officials and city staff will consider all municipal decisions in light of whether they will bring the city and its residents, businesses, and institutions closer to 100 percent carbon-neutral energy generation and use.
- The above goals are aspirational in nature and not to be considered binding upon the City.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that leaders in the Legislature and statewide elected and appointed officials are urged to do everything in their power to bring Minnesota closer to 100 percent carbon-free energy, and ensure that the benefits of carbon neutral energy are realized by Minnesota residents from all walks of life.


ADOPTED this 26th day of July, 2021.

SIGNED:



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Administrator

Footnotes:

1. https://www.xcelenergy.com/carbon_free_2050
2. <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air/greenhouse-gas-emissions-data>
3. <https://mn.gov/commerce/media/news/?id=17-371481>
4. pca.state.mn.us/air/state-and-regional-initiatives
5. Currently the City of La Crescent gets over 75% of municipal electric needs from carbon-free energy sources
6. https://lacrossetribune.com/news/local/la-crosse-looks-to-be-renewable-by/article_16e33384-e4b0-57c8-a962-90bc62166c30.html
7. https://www.postbulletin.com/magazines/radish/rochester-aims-for-renewable-energy/article_44e7d4e2-22e7-11e8-9ccc-335432ac7efe.html