



**CITY OF AMESBURY
IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND SIXTEEN**

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AMESBURY CITY CLERK

SPONSORED BY: Mayor C. Kenneth Gray BILL No 2016-032

Amesbury City Council Resolution to support the following steps by the City of Amesbury as outlined below:

Summary, A Resolution to support the following:

Net metering is a billing mechanism that credits solar energy system owners for the electricity they add to the regional power grid. Through agreements with solar developers net metering facilitates revenue and energy savings to municipalities. In 2014, as a result of legislation passed that year, the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities capped net metering at five-percent (5%) of a utility's historical peak load for public entities. For areas serviced by National Grid, that cap was reached. There are two proposed solar projects in the City of Amesbury that will not occur as proposed, unless the cap is lifted. Both of these projects are planned on capped landfills, property that currently delivers marginal revenue to the City. The first project, by Citizens Energy, is proposed on the 30-acre, privately owned, Waste Management landfill and will deliver six-megawatts of power and revenue through a PILOT. The City has also executed an RFP and selected a developer, SunEdision, for the City-owned Ticomb landfill. This 4.5-megawatt project on 17-acres will deliver a lease payment, and savings on energy costs. The City must request that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts continue its proactive stance on renewable energy and lift the net metering cap in a manner that sustains the revenue stream to municipalities and expands the use of the renewable technology to reduce impacts on the environment.

Be it Resolved by the City Council of the City of Amesbury assembled and by the authority of the same, considers this matter as follows:

WHEREAS, the City of Amesbury has the potential to become a leader in renewable energy, with over 10-megawatts of power proposed from the landfill-based solar projects; and

WHEREAS, the revenues generated by these solar projects will aid the City of Amesbury in meeting its budget demands for education, public safety, and community services; and

WHEREAS, the solar projects will diversify the revenue stream for the City of Amesbury and reduce the tax burden for local residents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Amesbury's ambitious solar projects will reduce its carbon emissions, help reduce its electricity costs, and help increase resilience in the face of severe weather events that disrupt the power grid; and

WHEREAS, the City of Amesbury views its projects as part of the overall goal to expand the 985-megawatts of solar in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, which has been ranked number one in the nation in energy efficiency by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy; and

WHEREAS, the dramatic increase in locally based and locally supported renewable energy facilities has occurred under existing property tax laws that enable cities and towns to appropriately collect revenues from private developers and protect the interests of local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the City of Amesbury has followed the lead of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and taken aggressive steps to move forward on the local solar projects; yet, the City is among 175 other municipalities affected by the current net metering cap; and



WHEREAS, the City of Amesbury does not support legislation that would reduce the net metering compensation rate to wholesale rate for sizeable solar arrays, that would arbitrarily allow mandatory minimum monthly charges on solar customers, and that would raise the net metering cap by an amount insufficient to allow the Amesbury projects; and

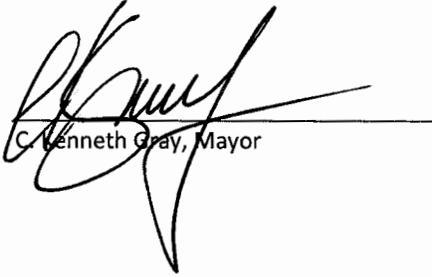
WHEREAS, the City of Amesbury has planned these two solar projects for over two years, only to watch the net metering cap evaporate as the City reached conclusive milestones for both projects; and,

NOW THEREFORE: be it resolved that the City of Amesbury strongly supports a lifting of the net metering cap on solar projects to allow all current and future projects that provide benefits to municipalities to go forward; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: that the City of Amesbury is vigorously opposed to any legislation that would reduce the net metering compensation rate for sizeable solar arrays, that would arbitrarily allow mandatory minimum monthly charges on solar customers, and that would raise the net metering cap to a level that would be insufficient to allow the Amesbury projects to come to fruition.

Witness my hand and seal for the City of Amesbury this _____ day of March, 2016

Bonnijo Kitchin, City Clerk



Kenneth Gray, Mayor

2-29-16
Date





Amesbury

Mayor C. Kenneth Gray

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February 29, 2016

Christian Scorzoni
City Council President
City of Amesbury
62 Friend Street
Amesbury Mass. 01930

Dear President Scorzoni;

The City of Amesbury has followed the lead of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and taken aggressive steps to move forward on two local solar projects; yet, the City is among 175 other municipalities affected by the current net metering cap. If the State does not extend the Net Metering Cap both of our projects and many of those State wide may not move forward.

The City Council has been a partner throughout this process guiding us through the process of approving a PILOT for the Citizens proposal and then approving a developer, SunEdison, for the Titcomb proposal. Both of these proposals are dependent on the Net Metering process which provides credits to private developers to generate revenue through Net Metering agreements with municipalities.

Our two projects represent a highly innovative method to obtain a revenue stream and savings from two closed landfills. If we include the environmental benefits of solar power the City will become a leader in both fiscal and environmental practice. However, as we close on crucial project milestones the loss of Net Metering credits will make all this effort and potential revenue moot.

We are continuing to move forward on both projects seeking every avenue to expedite the due diligence. However, we need to demonstrate to the Commonwealth that Net Metering is crucial to implement both projects. All we ask is that we are provided with Net Metering capacity to move both projects forward.

Sincerely,



Ken Gray

