



Date of Council Meeting: November 10, 2015

**TOWN OF LEESBURG
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

Subject: Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

Staff Contact: Keith Markel, Deputy Town Manager

Council Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution in support of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Inventory.

Staff Recommendation: No recommendation.

Commission Recommendation: Not Applicable. However, the Virginia Municipal League (VML) has included support for this initiative in their 2016 Legislative Agenda.

Fiscal Impact: Not determined.

Work Plan Impact: None.

Executive Summary: Members of the Town Council have expressed support of the initiative to develop a Regional Greenhouse Gas Inventory (RGGI) for Virginia as presented by the Chesapeake Climate Action Network. A representative from this organization made a presentation on this subject to the Town Council at the September 8, 2015 meeting.

The RGGI would develop a system to regulate carbon emissions through taxes or carbon credit auctions. Proceeds from these funds would be used to establish the “Commonwealth Resiliency Fund”. The Virginia Municipal League has included support for this initiative in their 2016 Legislative Agenda.

Background:

The Virginia Municipal League (VML) is urging the General Assembly to address greenhouse gas emissions targets through a Regional Greenhouse Gas Inventory (RGGI) carbon credit auction, and/or a carbon emissions tax. They recommend that all proceeds derived from the auction of credits be used to establish the “Commonwealth Resilience Fund”, a special state dedicated fund to assist localities in addressing flooding caused by sea level rise, energy efficiency improvements to reduce the demand for electricity generated by carbon emitting fossil fuels, and economic development for Southwest Virginia.

The attached draft resolution was developed by the Chesapeake Climate Action Network and was modified for the Town’s possible adoption.

Attachments: Draft Resolution

PRESENTED November 10, 2015

RESOLUTION NO. _____

ADOPTED November 10, 2015

A RESOLUTION: SUPPORTING LEGISLATION FOR VIRGINIA TO PARTICIPATE IN THE REGIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia has established a statewide energy efficiency goal of 10% energy conservation by 2020 based upon 2006 levels; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth has achieved only 1% energy savings to date since the 10% statewide goal was established; and

WHEREAS, the average monthly electric bills of residential customers throughout the Commonwealth is \$125.36, ranking 8th highest among all states nationally, and more than \$15 higher than the national average; and

WHEREAS, the Council desires to express its support of energy conservation to promote environmental sustainability; and

WHEREAS, House Joint Resolution No. 50 (2012) and Senate Joint Resolution No. 76 (2012) requested the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) to study strategies for adaptation to prevent recurrent flooding in Tidewater and Eastern Shore Virginia localities; and

WHEREAS, the resulting VIMS report, "Recurrent Flooding Study for Tidewater Virginia", published as Senate Document No. 3 (2013) states: "Recurrent flooding is a significant issue in all localities in Virginia coastal localities and one that is predicted to become worse over reasonable planning horizons (20-50 years)"; and

WHEREAS, the Council desires to express its support for funding solutions to localities in Tidewater and Eastern Shore Virginia localities for adaptation to prevent recurrent flooding.

THEREFORE RESOLVED, by the Council of the Town of Leesburg in Virginia that the Council hereby supports legislation in the 2016 General Assembly session that provides state

A RESOLUTION: SUPPORTING LEGISLATION FOR VIRGINIA TO PARTICIPATE IN
THE REGIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS INITIATIVE

assistance to low and moderate income homeowners by participating in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), that establishes a regional CO2 electric power sector cap and trade program, and directing revenues generated from the program to energy efficiency programs to help reduce customer bills and promote energy conservation. Enabling legislation joining the state into RGGI would also provide economic development assistance to localities in Tidewater for flooding and sea level rise adaptation measures.

PASSED this _____ day of _____, 2015.

Kristen C. Umstattd, Mayor
Town of Leesburg

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council