

County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Resolution No. R2012-0041

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| Sponsored by: Councilmembers Rogers, Miller, Connally and Simon | A Resolution supporting and collaborating with Emerald Cities Cleveland/Cuyahoga County to create a clean energy economy in Cuyahoga County by developing community workforce opportunities, enhancing environmentally sustainable practices and assisting Cuyahoga County and its political subdivisions to meet the U.S. Department of Energy's Better Buildings Challenge to make municipal buildings and facilities 20% more energy efficient by 2020. |
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WHEREAS, the National Emerald Cities Collaborative (ECC), is a national non-profit consortium comprised of twenty-one national organizations representing businesses, unions, government representatives, community organizations, research and technical assistance providers, development intermediaries, and social justice advocates; and,

WHEREAS, the ECC provides local stakeholders with technical assistance and expertise from community, labor, business and government sectors in the areas of capacity building; policy and advocacy support; and financing to create a clean energy economy using "high-road" strategies that will bring higher and more equal wages, better labor relations, more environmentally sustainable practices and advance equal opportunity; and,

WHEREAS, Emerald Cities Cleveland/Cuyahoga County (Emerald Cities) is the local council and is coordinated by the Ohio Apollo Alliance, a coalition of business, labor, environmental and social justice leaders; and,

WHEREAS, the ECC provided Emerald Cities with a planning grant to establish a governance structure, set early project priorities and determined how best to complement the City of Cleveland's Retrofit Working Group and the newly formed Cleveland Energy Alliance; and,

WHEREAS, Emerald Cities desires to work with Cuyahoga County, Ohio to improve energy efficiency and conservation in public buildings and facilities; and,

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County owns sixty-six (66) buildings containing thousands of square feet of office space and consuming tens of thousands of dollars' worth of electricity every year, and taxpayers would benefit from retrofitting county buildings to reduce energy costs; and,

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County has assisted fifty-one political subdivision through its Municipal Energy Program, funded by the American Recovery and Resources Act, through the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Program, by providing grants to complete energy audits of approximately five-hundred twenty-three (523) municipally-owned buildings and facilities totaling more than four (4) million square feet, and will provide additional funding for municipal retrofits projects; and,

WHEREAS, Cuyahoga County's unemployment rate of seven and three tenths percent could be decreased by the development of community workforce opportunities doing energy retrofit work on public buildings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO:

SECTION 1. Cuyahoga County will collaborate, when appropriate, with Emerald Cities in seeking financing mechanisms for the County and its political subdivisions to retrofit public buildings to meet the U.S. Department of Energy's Better Buildings Challenge of making buildings 20% more energy efficient by 2020.

SECTION 2. Cuyahoga County will work with Emerald Cities to create community workforce opportunities in energy efficiency and conservation contracting, subcontracting, training and employment policies that will strive to:

- Provide pathways to prosperity for all workers;
- Offer competitive wages that lead to a lasting career-track;
- Involve stakeholders and community members in developing and enacting policies and processes; and
- Drive accountability and continuously evaluate performance of investments.

SECTION 3. Cuyahoga County will actively participate and will encourage political subdivisions receiving Municipal Energy Program funds to participate in the Energy Star Portfolio Manager system by sharing building benchmarking information with Emerald Cities to assist in the identification of buildings and facilities for upgrades.

SECTION 4. Cuyahoga County will assist Emerald Cities in engaging other stakeholders.

SECTION 5. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of the Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

On a motion by _____, seconded by _____, the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted.

Yeas:

Nays:

County Council President

Date

County Executive

Date

Clerk of Council

Date

First Reading/Referred to Committee: March 13, 2012

Committee(s) Assigned: Environment & Sustainability

Additional Sponsorship Requested on the Floor: March 13, 2012

Journal _____
_____, 2012