



August 14, 2017

The Honorable James Kenney
Mayor of Philadelphia
City Hall, Office 215
Philadelphia, PA, 19107

The Honorable Darrell Clarke
President, Philadelphia City Council
City Hall, Room 494
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Re: Green Justice Philly's Solar Justice Philly Campaign

Dear Mayor Kenney and President Clarke,

The undersigned Green Justice Philly leadership organizations write to express our strong support for actions taken by the City to transition Philadelphia from fossil fuels to renewable energy. We urge the City to ensure that its work is designed to provide a just, efficient transition to renewable energy that creates jobs for Philadelphians, including a commitment to diversity and exploration of opportunities to build wealth for all Philadelphia residents, especially under-resourced neighborhoods. Green Justice Philly has officially launched its *Solar Justice Philly* campaign to achieve these goals.

Green Justice Philly is a diverse and growing coalition¹ committed to building a healthy, sustainable and economically just Philadelphia region. We work together to oppose the dirty fossil fuel industry that puts our neighborhoods at risk and makes our citizens sick, and cannot contribute to our long-term prosperity.

The City of Philadelphia spends roughly \$60 million per year to purchase approximately 700,000 megawatt hours of electricity to power City buildings, departments and street lights.² A portion of this investment could be reprioritized to implement projects that would reduce our carbon footprint, improve the health of city residents, and create good-paying jobs for Philadelphians.

Green Justice Philly applauds Mayor Kenney's commitment to 100% renewable energy for Philadelphia, which addresses the climate and public health crisis that has resulted from the burning of fossil fuels. We urge Mayor Kenney to put the firm timeline of 2030 on this 100% renewable energy goal and to commit a sizeable portion of the electricity to come from Philadelphia area sources with a

¹ Green Justice Philly Member Organizations: [350 Philly](#), [Action United](#), Be the Change Philadelphia, [Clean Air Council](#), [Clean Water Action](#), CCP Coalition for a Sustainable Future, [Delaware Riverkeeper Network](#), [Farm to City](#), [Fossil Free Drexel](#), [EDGE Philly](#), [Exact Solar](#), [Food & Water Watch](#), [Keystone Catholics](#), [Maypop Collective](#), [Mom's Clean Air Force](#), [Neighborhood Networks of Philadelphia](#), North of Washington Ave Coalition (NOWAC), [Pennsylvania Federation BMWED-Teamsters](#), [Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light](#), [Philadelphia Chapter](#), [Philly Electric Wheels](#), [Protecting Our Waters](#), [PSR-Philadelphia](#), [The Shalom Center](#)

² These figures are based on conversations with the Philadelphia Office of Sustainability's Energy Office in February 2016.

commitment to a diverse workforce. We also recognize the work that the Office of Sustainability is doing to advance renewable energy through the Municipal Energy Master Plan, the City-wide Energy Vision, and, in partnership with the Philadelphia Energy Authority (PEA), renewable energy Power Purchase Agreements. Green Justice Philly plans to submit comments or suggestions on all three initiatives. In addition, we appreciate City Council's vision for advancing renewable energy through the solar rooftop resolution and for their support for advancing solar on Philadelphia schools and for the PEA's Solarize Philly initiative. We also recognize the PEA and President Clarke for their leadership on the Philadelphia Energy Campaign.

To advance Mayor Kenney's goals for renewable energy in a way that benefits Philadelphia residents and the local market most, Green Justice Philly urges Mayor Kenney to make the commitment that by 2020, the City of Philadelphia will generate at least 30% of the electricity used in government-owned buildings, departments and street lights from solar projects in the five county region, including installations on City-owned buildings and property and on properties in under-resourced neighborhoods. We expect that Mayor Kenney will commit to ensuring that the jobs created by this policy will go to Philadelphia residents, with a commitment to ensuring the workforce reflects the racial demographics of the city as closely as possible and are under union conditions (fair wages, benefits and working conditions). We specifically ask Mayor Kenney and the City of Philadelphia's Office of Sustainability to include the above commitment in Philadelphia's Municipal Energy Master Plan.

Green Justice Philly is also aware that the City is working on putting out a Request for Proposals for a Power Purchase Agreement for renewable energy to prospective companies at the end of August 2017. Our coalition urges Philadelphia Energy Office to enter into a 20 year Power Purchase Agreement for 40 MW of renewable energy sourced from the 5-county Philadelphia region that requires a diverse workforce that matches the racial demographics of the city and provides fair wages under union conditions. Building solar in the 5 county region will result in a lot more direct and indirect economic activity in the region than there would be if solar were installed outside the area.

A commitment to regional energy sources for Philadelphia and Power Purchase Agreements with locally generated renewable energy sources would create jobs for Philadelphia residents. Green Justice Philly fully supports the use of unionized labor to do this work and believes that the contractors that would build solar projects should commit and be held accountable to specific diversity goals such as those set in the Rebuild Philadelphia July 2017 Request For Qualifications. In addition, Green Justice Philly believes that the City should commit to contracting with a specific percentage of minority-owned and women-owned businesses.

There is a lot of good work currently underway in Philadelphia designed to advance renewable energy, which will yield air quality and public health benefits while curbing climate change. Focusing development within the 5 county area and employing local residents would increase resiliency and autonomy as we prepare for climate change-induced threats to our environment, health, economy, land, and infrastructure. Green Justice Philly is interested in ensuring that the details of public goals around energy and that the City's plans are implemented in a just manner that also sets the stage for the solar market in Philadelphia to continue to expand in the years to come.

Thank you for your consideration of the above requests regarding Green Justice Philly's *Solar Justice Philly* campaign.

Sincerely,

Green Justice Philly Steering Committee:

Clean Air Council, Matt Walker, Community Outreach Director (mwalker@cleanair.org)

Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director (tracy@delawareriverkeeper.org)

Food & Water Watch, Sam Rubin (srubin@fwwatch.org)

Interfaith Power and Light, Rabbi Mordechai Liebling (Lieblingm@gmail.com)

Pennsylvania Federation BMWED-Teamsters, Jed Dodd, General Chairman, Pennsylvania Federation BMWED-Teamsters (doddjed@verizon.net)

CC:

Philadelphia City Councilmembers

Christine Knapp, Director of the Office of Sustainability

Sarah Wu, Deputy Director, Office of Sustainability

Adam Agalloco, Energy Manager, Office of Energy

Richard Freeh, Senior Program Manager, Office of Sustainability

Emily Schapira, Executive Director, Philadelphia Energy Authority