

CONNECT Energy and Sustainability Resolutions

CONNECT Second Congress 2010:

10-15 Whereas CONNECT members are very interested in identifying and implementing energy efficient and sustainable practices in their municipalities; and whereas the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission Act 129 of 2008 declared that the health, safety and prosperity of Pennsylvanians is dependent on have having adequate, reliable, affordable and environmentally sustainable electric service and that the public interest will be served by the adoption of energy efficient and conservation measures and by expanding the use of alternative energy; and whereas CONNECT recognizes that the implementation of energy efficient street lighting technology will provide both an environmental and cost-savings benefit to the CONNECT communities; and whereas CONNECT municipalities have common and shared relationships with service providers. **Therefore, be it resolved that CONNECT will create a framework for retrofitting and upgrading street lighting in the member municipalities.**

10-16 Whereas CONNECT, as a union of 36 municipalities has considerable economic assets; and whereas many of the CONNECT municipalities do not have the ability to hire an energy efficiency consultant because the size of their community is not cost-effective for a for-profit consultant; and whereas at the same time, Allegheny County is offering CONNECT municipalities' funds to conduct an audit of their facilities with the understanding that each municipality will implement an energy-related retrofit based on the county-wide facility audit; and whereas the ad hoc committee appointed by the Executive Committee recommends that CONNECT retain the services of an energy auditor to perform a CONNECT-wide audit of phone, electricity and gas usage for cost-saving purposes; and whereas an ad hoc committee appointed by the Executive Committee has performed due diligence by soliciting requests for proposals from energy auditors. **Therefore, be it resolved that in an effort to provide additional cost-savings that are not addressed in the County audit, the ad hoc committee recommends that CONNECT retain the services of Eric Ryan Corporation to perform the energy audit beginning in August 2010 for CONNECT members who chose to participate.**

10-17 Whereas Edgewood Borough, Millvale Borough, city of Pittsburgh and Wilkinsburg Borough took part in a recent Western PA Electricity Aggregation program (reverse energy auction) hosted by the city; and whereas the participating communities saved the following amounts annually:

- Edgewood \$1,088 (contract volume 262,208kWh, contract savings \$3,173)
- Millvale \$4,901 (contract volume 1,181,332KWh, contract savings \$14,294)
- City of Pittsburgh \$168,386 (contract volume 40,588,876, contract savings \$491,125)
- Wilkinsburg \$7,611 (contact volume 1,834,700kWh, contract savings \$22,200);
and

Whereas this auction provided the participants an opportunity to work together to create savings for all involved in the process; and whereas CONNECT encourages the solicitors in each municipality to endorse and take part in energy auctions. **Therefore, be it resolved that CONNECT will provide joint bidding opportunities to its member municipalities in the area of energy savings.**

CONNECT Third Congress, 2011

11-13 Whereas CONNECT municipalities have identified implementing energy efficient programs in their communities as a priority; and whereas CONNECT has committed to researching the option of replacing current street lighting with energy efficient lights; and whereas Duquesne Light is the electric distribution company of all 36 CONNECT municipalities and CONNECT is interested in working with Duquesne Light to pilot energy efficient lighting technologies in the municipalities; and whereas Duquesne Light is establishing an advisory board to garner input on the adoption of energy efficient technologies. **Therefore, be it resolved that CONNECT commits to working collaboratively with Duquesne Light to implement energy saving programs in CONNECT communities; to appoint members to the new advisory board; to research energy efficient lighting technologies and street lighting replacement options; and to work collaboratively to discover areas where cooperation would be mutually beneficial for Duquesne Light and the CONNECT municipalities.**

11-14 Whereas CONNECT passed Resolution 10-16 which recommended CONNECT retain a firm to perform a telecommunications and utility audit of the CONNECT municipalities beginning August 2010; and whereas significant savings have been realized as detailed in a report issued to each participating municipality. **Therefore, be it resolved that CONNECT encourages additional member municipalities to participate in the telecommunications and utility audit.**

11-15 Whereas CONNECT passed Resolution 10-16 which recommended CONNECT municipalities perform a telecommunications and utility audit beginning August 2010; and whereas participating CONNECT municipalities were able to save money by participating in the audit; and whereas the Energy/Green Initiatives policy working group recommends that CONNECT retain the services of a firm to perform an energy usage audit that could provide the municipalities additional cost savings that have not been examined in the prior audit. **Therefore, be it resolved that CONNECT will develop a request for proposals, solicit proposals, establish an ad-hoc committee appointed by the Executive Committee to perform due diligence, and select a firm to perform an energy usage audit for CONNECT municipalities that choose to participate.**

11-16 Whereas green infrastructure is a combination of management approaches and technologies that utilize and enhance the natural hydrologic cycle; and whereas these technologies include (but are not limited to) rain gardens, green roofs, porous pavement, infiltration planters, trees and tree boxes; and whereas these technologies can be used to prevent rainwater from entering the sewer systems thereby reducing the number of overflow events. **Therefore, be it resolved that CONNECT is committed to implementing green infrastructure projects when possible and will work with partners to develop a database of funding opportunities for green infrastructure projects that support the implementation of these technologies in member municipalities.**

CONNECT Fourth Congress, 2012:

12-05 Believe that a regional approach should be limited to the most economical solution available to the region and its impact equitably shared.

12-11 Advocates for the streamlining and harmonizing of local processes for the safe installation of and removal of unnecessary market barriers to the development of renewable energy resources in our region; has begun this process through its partnership in the Sun Shot Rooftop Solar Challenge project, a project that is developed standards for solar zoning, coding and ordinances for voluntary adoption by member municipalities.

CONNECT Fifth Congress, 2013:

13-09 Calls upon the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission to review thoroughly, but as expeditiously as possible, Duquesne Light filings that would have substantial savings to municipalities in our region. Also calls upon the Public Utilities Commission to ensure the capital costs of replacement for street lights and fixtures are shouldered fairly by utilities and municipalities, accounting for the relative age and value of existing assets.

CONNECT Sixth Congress, 2015:

15-15 Will advocate for the PUC and Duquesne Light to lower the tariff on LED street lighting; will work with Duquesne Light to replace all non-LED municipal street lights with LED efficient street lights.

15-16 Will research funding opportunities and programs for municipalities to implement energy efficiency projects in their communities; shall request that the Treasurer of Pennsylvania open PennSEF's funding stream to smaller projects that would benefit energy efficiency project creation.