BLAINE COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2020-54

A RESOLUTION TO COMMIT TO SUPPORTING THE POWERING OF BLAINE COUNTY WITH 100% CLEAN ENERGY BY 2045 AND 100% CLEAN ELECTRICITY BY 2035

WHEREAS, clean energy is defined as wind, solar, geothermal, and existing functional hydropower and any energy technologies that are carbon-free, equitable, and have a low environmental impact; and

WHEREAS, clean energy represents an enormous economic opportunity to create jobs in an emerging industry, increase economic security, expand prosperity for local residents, reduce air pollution and associated public health risks, reduce the strain on water resources, and save money for consumers; and

WHEREAS, cities and states all over the United States representing over 100 million people have adopted 100% clean power pledges; and

WHEREAS, there is scientific consensus regarding the existence of climate change, and that the combustion of fossil fuels creates greenhouse gas pollution, causing the warming and disturbance of the global climate; and

WHEREAS, locally, our changing climate has already led to increased variability of the snowpack leading to water scarcity for residents and farmers, increased frequency of wildfires and smoke and warming of streams that threatens coldwater fish; and

WHEREAS, rooftop solar, low-income community solar, energy efficiency, energy storage and demand-control technologies offer the opportunity to distribute resources equitably, address poverty, stimulate new economic activity, and lessen the energy cost burden upon those most impacted by high energy bills; and

WHEREAS, distributed solar energy paired with energy storage is an important strategy to build disaster resilience into our communities, and to assist with disaster recovery. Ensuring equitable distribution of these resources is imperative to adequately prepare for disasters, particularly those exacerbated by climate change; and

WHEREAS, Idaho Power has committed to 100% Clean Energy by 2045 and is committed to working with our cities and county to help us achieve our clean energy goals; and

WHEREAS, the elected officials in Blaine County support the value that a healthy environment is intrinsically tied to the wellbeing of a community and the strength of its economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BLAINE COUNTY ESTABLISHES THE FOLLOWING RENEWABLE ENERGY GOALS:

I. One Hundred Percent (100%) clean energy electricity use by 2030, including at least 75% clean energy by 2025; and
II. One Hundred Percent (100%) clean energy for the community-wide electricity supply by 2035; and

III. Transition county fleet vehicles and equipment to 100% electric power as technologically and economically feasible by 2035

IV. One Hundred Percent (100%) clean energy for all energy use by 2045.

FURTHERMORE, a regional stakeholder group will be formed including representatives from city government, the county, citizens, businesses, and local experts from our non-profit community to create a roadmap to achieve our clean energy goals. This group shall be formed by January 2021.

The clean energy transition and stakeholder group shall be overseen by a newly created sustainability position within Blaine County in collaboration with and/or supported by participating cities. This position shall be created by January 2022.

An action plan to achieve 100% clean energy shall be submitted to the public by August 2021, and the plan shall be approved by the County by January 2022.

DATED this 27th day of October 2020.

BLAINE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

[Signatures and stamps]

J. Lynn Drage
Commissioner

[Signatures and stamps]

Angenie McClean
Vice Chair

Dick Fosbury
Commissioner

ATTEST:

[Signatures and stamps]