

## **Resolution to Encourage Community Solar Development in Ann Arbor**

Whereas the City of Ann Arbor has adopted a Climate Action Plan and developed a Solar Plan that both advocate maximizing the installation and use of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems;

Whereas, it is estimated that 30% of the citizens of Ann Arbor do not have the ability to invest in efficient or practical solar energy because of site issues (e.g., shading, roof orientation, renters, condo owners);

Whereas the high cost of installing a complete solar PV energy system is a barrier for many who alternately could afford to invest in a partial system or several solar collectors;

Whereas, many people do not feel comfortable purchasing or maintaining a solar energy system whose technology they know little about;

Whereas, Community Solar allows a group of people or businesses to purchase shares in a renewable energy system, not located at the site of their electric meter, to get their share of the value of the energy produced from the off-site renewable energy system as if it were located at their home or business;

Whereas, Community Solar can remove many of these barriers by allowing a group of investors to purchase shares in a group-owned solar energy system which is constructed, operated, and maintained by a third party;

Whereas, Community Solar projects also have the potential to be an economic development activity;

Whereas, These Community Solar participants would receive credit for the electricity produced from their share of the jointly owned solar energy system;

Whereas, Community Solar is proving very successful in areas where either State law (Colorado) or local utilities (Cherryland Electric Cooperative) have offered Community Solar programs;

Whereas, numerous Ann Arbor neighborhood and church groups have contacted the Ann Arbor Energy Office or the Ann Arbor Energy Commission stating their desire to implement a Community Solar project in Ann Arbor;

Whereas, current utility policy in Michigan does not allow public utilities like DTE and CE to offer Community Solar programs except as a MPSC approved pilot program;

Resolved, that the Ann Arbor City Council direct the Ann Arbor City staff to work under the direction of the Energy Commission and with DTE to create a Community Solar pilot program for Ann Arbor by March 31, 2014;

Resolved, that the Ann Arbor City Council encourage the Michigan Legislature to pass enabling legislation for Community Solar similar to the bill passed in the State of Minnesota on May 23, 2013 (Solar Energy Jobs Act - HF729) mandating public electric utilities to submit a plan to

allow separately metered accounts to be credited for investment in a Community Shared Solar project.