



PIMA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

A Resolution by Pima Association of Governments (PAG) to Encourage Policies that Will Result in the Greater Utilization of Solar Energy

Whereas, solar energy is an abundant, clean and free source of energy and that Arizona ranks among the most ideal locations nationally for the deployment of solar energy generation, and;

Whereas, solar energy can be used in varying ways to generate usable power including solar water heating, and electric generation from photovoltaic panels or concentrating solar thermal systems, and;

Whereas, the need for clean energy is growing and solar energy is a highly effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the demand for fossil-fuel generation, and;

Whereas, the greater utilization of solar energy is impeded by various factors including the limited availability of solar irradiation, high initial capital costs and policies that either inhibit or do not encourage the use of solar energy systems, and;

Whereas, the greater utilization of solar energy in southern Arizona has the potential to provide a substantial amount of energy demand given the high level of ambient solar energy that is received in our desert, and;

Whereas, solar energy is a renewable form of energy that can be used to fulfill the obligations of utilities to meet Arizona's Renewable Energy Standard that requires regulated utilities to supply 15 percent of their delivered energy through the use of renewable sources, and;

Whereas, the utilization of solar energy in southern Arizona is not keeping pace with other areas of the United States, despite the natural abundance of solar irradiation, suggesting the need for a more aggressive and coordinated approach to ensure that solar energy is developed locally to the greatest possible extent, and;

Whereas, the solar energy industry is a "clean" industry and is potentially the source of substantial local investment and employment, and;

Whereas, a Solar Development Action Plan has been developed to identify strategies that can improve the region's ability to attract solar industry and to realize the greater deployment of solar facilities to provide energy to our community,

In Consideration Thereof, the PAG Regional Council:

Acknowledges the many benefits afforded by the greater utilization of solar energy, and;

Accepts the Solar Development Action Plan as presenting a framework to realize greater solar energy utilization, and;

Encourages member jurisdictions to pursue and adopt policies and invest in solar energy projects, as appropriate and necessary, to achieve a greater level of solar utilization in the region and to position the region as a location where solar energy is seen to be a core economic driver to benefit the community as we move to a new energy future.

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