



Dr. Cary Gaunt  
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229 Main Street  
Keene, NH 03435

November 27, 2018

Mayor Kendall W. Lane  
City Council  
City of Keene  
3 Washington Street  
Keene, NH 03431

RE: Support for the Community-Wide Sustainable Energy Resolution

Dear Mayor Lane and City Council Members:

I am writing to support the community-wide Sustainable Energy Resolution initiated by the Monadnock Progressive Alliance (MPA) Clean Energy Team. The proposed goals present a bold, yet essential, leadership vision for the City and region. By having these goals, clear implementation road maps can be developed.

The goals presented in the Sustainable Energy Resolution are compatible with Keene State College's sustainability and renewable energy goals approved by President Treadwell and the College Cabinet during Earth Week, April 2017. Keene State College developed these goals after extensive research, including stakeholder outreach, benchmarking analysis of our peers, and assessing financial plausibility. The College wanted to strengthen its leadership position in environmental sustainability while ensuring the financial sustainability of the institution. Innovative financing mechanisms and technological advances have dramatically increased the accessibility and viability of renewable energy and make these essential renewable energy goals attainable.

I say "essential" renewable energy goals because the international scientific consensus is clear: to avoid catastrophic global climate disruption, that will affect our region through more intense storm events, heat waves, and unpredictable weather, warming must be kept below 1.5 degrees Celsius. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report released October 8, 2018, achieving this means all sectors of society must respond with plans to eliminate carbon dioxide emissions no later than 2050. The goals presented in the Sustainable Energy Resolution effectively respond to this international call to action.

The Keene State College Office of Sustainability applauds the significant actions the City of Keene already has taken toward climate protection. Speaking as the Director of Campus

Sustainability, I hope the City will approve the Sustainable Energy Resolution to underscore *and* expand its commitment to climate leadership. Furthermore, the Office of Sustainability looks forward to collaborating with the City to develop approaches that will help both of us achieve our renewable energy goals and model effective response to the climate challenge.

Sincerely,



Cary H. Gaunt, Ph.D.  
Director of Campus Sustainability  
Keene State College