

BOROUGH OF HIGHLANDS, N. J.

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Memorandum

To: Mayor Broullon and Councilmembers of the Borough of Highlands
From: Nancy Tran, Land Use Board Secretary 
Date: August 16, 2023
Subject: Community Energy Plan

On August 10, 2023, the Land Use Board considered a report entitled The Borough of Highlands Community Energy Plan, prepared by Kristin J. Russell, PP, AICP of Colliers Engineering & Design, dated June 2023.

The Community Energy Plan seeks to bring Highlands into partnership with the state's NJ Energy Master Plan, with a goal of 100% clean energy by 2050. The Borough of Highlands is committed to addressing climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and this Plan identifies specific strategies we wish to pursue.

A group of stakeholders was convened, and considered dozens of initiatives for the Borough to undertake in this effort, looking 3 to 5 years into the future, targeting community needs, and taking advantage of existing opportunities. Under the guidance and direction of Colliers Engineering & Design, seven priorities that aligned with our local interests, capacity, and realistic timeline were chosen:

- Adopt Supportive Zoning and Regulations for EV Infrastructure
- Train First Responders on EVs and EVSE
- Install Public EV Charging Infrastructure
- Adopt Supportive Zoning and Permitting for Solar
- Train First Responders on Solar
- Upgrade Energy Efficiency for Municipal Facilities
- Construct New Municipal Buildings as Model Green Buildings

We note that this report is consistent with the Borough's 2016 Master Plan Reexamination Report and Amendments, wherein sustainable development and resiliency is recommended:

In an effort to promote resiliency in Borough of Highlands, it is also recommended that the Borough update its zoning policies to promote sustainable development and resilience to future storms. This should be done through the promotion of green building and infrastructure techniques. (pg. 56).

It is our recommendation that the Municipal Council adopt this document, which not only demonstrates our commitment to a sustainable future but will position us favorably to receive future funding and technical assistance.