

**From:** [Joe DeFors](#)  
**To:** [Michelle Crocker](#)  
**Cc:** [Chet Janik](#); [Laurel Evans](#); [Ty Wessell](#)  
**Subject:** Assistance please  
**Date:** Monday, January 11, 2021 11:50:44 AM  
**Attachments:** [FINAL COVER LETTER 1.11.21.pdf](#)  
[FINAL RESOLUTION - 1.11.21.pdf](#)

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Dear Ms. Crocker,

We understand the commissioners will begin the process of formulating goals for 2021 at their regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 12, 2021. Please find two documents attached from Leelanau Energy, a registered 501c3 nonprofit based in Leelanau County. We would like to submit these documents to the commissioners in lieu of appearing in person during the public comment portion of the meeting.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely, Joe DeFors  
President, Leelanau Energy  
[www.LeelanauEnergy.org](http://www.LeelanauEnergy.org)



**Leelanau Energy**  
[www.LeelanauEnergy.org](http://www.LeelanauEnergy.org)

January 11, 2021

Leelanau Energy  
P.O. Box 754,  
Northport, MI 49670

re: 2021 Leelanau County Commission Goals

Leelanau County Board of Commissioners,

We are pleased and proud to have worked with you last year to add language regarding energy efficiency and renewable energy to the Leelanau County General Plan.

We return during your 2021 goal setting period to ask you to continue this important work that is also supported by our friends and neighbors.

This year we hope you will consider two actions that will move us further down this road. First, by adopting a resolution supporting energy efficiency and renewable energy.

And second, by supporting a project that would partner Leelanau Energy with the Leelanau County Planning Commission to create templates for renewable energy friendly planning and zoning language that could then be shared as a resource with villages and townships throughout the County.

Why take this action? We think the American Planning and Zoning Association puts it best:

*“Many communities indicate that they allow wind and solar installations even though there is no mention of wind or solar in their zoning code. In these instances, the communities have a gap in their code that leaves the community and the wind or solar owners vulnerable if a resident opposes a neighbor’s*

*installation or sues the city for allowing a land use that is not defined nor explicitly allowed in their local land use laws. **A conspicuous silence on the part of local policies, plans, and regulations on the topic of wind and solar energy use constitutes a significant barrier to adoption and implementation of these technologies.***"

We thank you in advance for the time taken to seriously consider our proposal. We look forward to working with you again this year.

Joe DeFors  
President, Leelanau Energy  
[www.LeelanauEnergy.org](http://www.LeelanauEnergy.org)



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**PROPOSAL for a  
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY**

**Whereas**, the County of Leelanau wishes to lead by example and model positive behaviors and actions for its constituent residents, businesses and communities; and

**Whereas**, the use of energy efficiency practices and the adoption of renewable energy technologies help to reduce our energy burden and protect our natural environment; and

**Whereas**, Michigan voters approve of renewable energy as evidenced by a 2018 Greenberg Quinlan Rosner study that found 72% of registered voters in Michigan supported setting a goal of generating 100% of our power from renewable energy.

**Whereas**, 90% of Michigan residents support more solar use in Michigan according to a 2019 Survey of Michigan residents by the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research at Michigan State University; and

**Whereas**, to the statement “*Current regulations limit the use of alternative energy sources in residential areas*” in a 2018 County-wide survey for the Leelanau County Planning Commission, 61% respondents of all ages said they “Agree” or “Strongly Agree”; and

**Whereas**, energy is an essential resource needed to power our homes, our businesses, our transportation systems and our communities;

**Now, Therefore, be it Resolved, that the County of Leelanau:** wishes to be on record with a clear statement of our support for protecting and preserving our unique environment through the adoption of energy efficiency practices and the use of clean, renewable energy.