



Union of Concerned Scientists
Citizens and Scientists for Environmental Solutions

May 18, 2006

The Honorable Kenneth E. Reeves
Mayor, City of Cambridge
City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Mayor Reeves,

I am writing on behalf of the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) to commend the City of Cambridge for its participation in the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign and for your leadership in reducing harmful air pollution and global warming emissions.

As part of this effort, the City Council passed a resolution on June 6, 2005 requiring that 20 percent of the electricity used in municipal buildings come from clean, renewable resources such as wind and solar by 2010. With the one-year anniversary of the resolution fast approaching, the City Council and City Manager have an excellent opportunity to demonstrate that full and effective implementation of the resolution is underway.

If the Cambridge standard were to be implemented by electric utilities across the country, by 2020 we could reduce the growth in carbon emissions by 60 percent, with carbon savings equivalent to taking 65 million cars off the road. Leadership at local level is essential to drive state and federal action that will protect the health of our communities today and for well being of our children in the years ahead.

UCS is proud to have its origins and headquarters based in a city that leads by example. As a national science-based organization, we share Cambridge's commitment to increasing renewable energy use to protect our community's health and the environment. For several years, UCS has used a combination of on-site renewable energy generation (via a rooftop solar photovoltaic array) and the purchase of renewable energy credits to offset more than half of the power consumed in our Cambridge headquarters. This year, we increased our renewable energy purchase to cover 100 percent of the electricity consumed at all three of our office locations. This is part of a larger, multi-year effort to make UCS a climate neutral organization.

A 20 percent renewable energy goal is both sensible and achievable with appropriate planning. That is why it is important for Cambridge to begin the process today, and gradually build up to

the full target over the next few years. Please let us know if we can be helpful as the city explores renewable energy procurement strategies. We would be happy to share our knowledge and experience on this issue.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Rest
Executive Director, Union of Concerned Scientists

Cc: Hon. Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.
Hon. Henrietta Davis
Hon. Marjorie C. Decker
Hon. Anthony D. Galluccio
Hon. Craig A. Kelley
Hon. Brian Murphy
Hon. E. Denise Simmons
Hon. Michael A. Sullivan