Pat Miller 2/18/2020

151 Borden Rd

Middletown, NJ

Middletown for Clean Energy, Green Team

Middletown for Clean Energy recently completed a comprehensive and well-researched Energy Plan for Middletown and distributed a draft to Middletown officials, department heads and Green Team. It was accompanied by a cover letter endorsed by 87 residents. The plan provides a road map for actions Middletown must take over the next 10 years to meet the state-mandated goal of 100% Clean Energy by 2050, as set out in the Global Warming Response Act and NJ’s new Energy Master Plan. It also provides a road map for attaining Sustainable Jersey’s Gold Star in Energy.

We heartily support the community solar canopy project at the train station. We hope it will go forward (and hope it won’t be the last such development of its kind).

We urge Middletown to adopt the Energy Plan, adapt it for use with or as part of the upcoming Master Plan revision, and immediately begin to take the actions prescribed by the Plan. The first and most effective and cost reducing action is to adopt renewable electric aggregation and make it available to the entire community. Several nearby towns have agreed to form a coalition to explore this opportunity, and we urge Middletown, as the largest town in Monmouth County, to join with them and provide leadership.

Action to immediately reduce our fossil fuel emissions (coal, oil and gas) is necessary if we are to preserve the quality of life we have come to know and love in Middletown for our children and grandchildren. Failure to do so soon enough heightens the risk of health-and-even-life-threatening degradation of our air and water, and losing much or all of our bayshore land and buildings to sea level rise, without hugely expensive remediation efforts.

In closing, I ask the Committee to adopt and adapt the Energy Plan and to proceed immediately with carrying out its actions, starting with aggregated clean electricity for the community.