April 10, 2018

Christine Knapp, Director of the Office of Sustainability

Dear Ms. Knapp,

Green Justice Philly (GJP) and allied groups are excited about the City’s momentum toward increasing renewable energy in Philadelphia. Our groups support the Office of Sustainability’s (OOS) commitment in its Clean Energy Vision to lead by example so that other large electricity customers such as universities, medical facilities, businesses, and cultural institutions in the city will be encouraged to advance a just transition to renewable energy. To demonstrate leadership, OOS should take the following actions by June 2018:

- Select an energy supplier and project - ideally as close to Philadelphia as possible - for the renewable energy power purchase agreement it is currently reviewing bids for. Ensure that the Economic Opportunity Plan in the contract is fully enforced.
- Complete and publish the analysis of all City-owned roof space, assets, and other properties in the region available for siting solar panels.
- Release a new Request for Proposals for an on-site renewable energy power purchase agreement within the city.
- Convene large institutions in Philadelphia to discuss collectively or individually entering into renewable energy power purchase agreements.

We believe that these steps represent the low-hanging fruit recommended in OOS’ Clean Energy Vision and that they are all possible to achieve in a short timeframe. As the city expends resources to advance solar development in the region, Mayor Kenney and the Office of Sustainability should ensure that Philadelphia residents and the local market benefit as much as possible. To do that, we urge Mayor Kenney to make the commitment that by 2020, the City of Philadelphia will generate at least 30% of the electricity used in government-owned buildings, departments and street lights from solar projects in the five county region, including installations on City-owned buildings and property and on properties in under-resourced neighborhoods. The City should ensure that the jobs created by solar development spurred from this pledge will go to Philadelphia residents, with a commitment to ensuring the workforce reflects the racial demographics of the city as closely as possible and are under union conditions (fair wages, benefits and working conditions). We look forward to seeing OOS demonstrate strong leadership on this issue.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jed Dodd, General Chairman, Pennsylvania Federation BMWED-Teamsters – GJP Steering Committee

Matt Walker, Clean Air Council - GJP Steering Committee

Mordechai Liebling, Interfaith Power and Light - GJP Steering Committee
Tracy Carluccio, Delaware Riverkeeper Network - GJP Steering Committee
Sam Rubin, Food and Water Watch - GJP Steering Committee
Mitch Chanin, Steering Committee, 350 Philly
Eileen Flanagan, Board Clerk, Earth Quaker Action Team
Stanley Shapiro, Philly Neighborhood Networks
Jim Wylie, Executive Committee Chair, Sierra Club, Southeastern PA Group
Adam Garber, Deputy Director, Penn Environment
Johannah CordonHill, Strategy Convener, Philly Thrive

CC:
Honorable James Kenney, Mayor of Philadelphia
Michael DiBerardinis, Managing Director, City of Philadelphia
Brian Abernathy, First Deputy Managing Director, City of Philadelphia
Richard Lazer, Deputy Mayor of Labor, City of Philadelphia
Manny Citron, Chief of Staff, Mayor’s Office of Labor, City of Philadelphia
Alan L. Butkovitz, City Controller of Philadelphia
Darrell Clark, Philadelphia City Council President
Philadelphia City Councilmembers
Sarah Wu, Deputy Director, Office of Sustainability
Adam Agalloco, Energy Manager, Office of Energy
Richard Freeh, Senior Program Manager, Office of Sustainability
Emily Schapira, Executive Director, Philadelphia Energy Authority
Kelly Anderson, Source Water Protection Program, Office of Watersheds, City of Philadelphia
Chellie Cameron, Chief Executive Officer, Philadelphia International Airport, Department of Commerce, Aviation Division