

BEREA CITY COUNCIL

City of Berea, Ohio

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-17

By: Councilwoman Mary K. Brown Sponsor: Mayor Cyril M. Kleem

A RESOLUTION

AGREEING TO ALLOW CUYAHOGA COUNTY TO OPERATE A PUBLIC UTILITY IN THE CITY OF BERA PURSUANT TO ITS POWERS UNDER THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF BERA, THE STATE OF OHIO AND THE LAWS ESTABLISHED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO.

WHEREAS, the City of Berea recognizes that Cuyahoga County has created a Public Utility pursuant to its authority established under the Constitution of the State of Ohio and laws of the State of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Ohio Attorney General Opinion 2021-015, Cuyahoga County is required to obtain consent with those municipalities in which it seeks to operate its Public Utility; and

WHEREAS, in passing this Resolution, Berea would join the cities of Lakewood, Brooklyn, Brook Park, Cleveland Heights and Euclid in passing similar permissive resolutions; and

WHEREAS, the County has great interest in developing energy microgrids in commercial, industrial and manufacturing districts which can utilize locally generated clean energy, on site battery storage and advanced technologies for resiliency; and

WHEREAS, the power flowing through a microgrid is created from sustainable sources, which will benefit Berea's commercial and industrial end-users by providing battery back-up power during power outages; and

WHEREAS, the County has identified the City of Berea as a strong geographic location and partner to work with to develop a microgrid district within; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berea does not have current franchise agreements with any electrical distribution utility which would hinder or foreclose its ability to allow Cuyahoga County to operate its Utility in the City and therefore be able to offer competition to customers; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Berea and Administration strongly support regional efforts to provide clean energy to the public.

BEREA CITY COUNCIL

City of Berea, Ohio

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-17

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Berea, State of Ohio:

SECTION 1. That the City of Berea hereby gives consent to Cuyahoga County to operate a public utility in the City of Berea pursuant to its powers under the State of Ohio and the laws established by the Charter of the County of Cuyahoga, Ohio.

SECTION 2. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the approval of this Resolution were approved in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

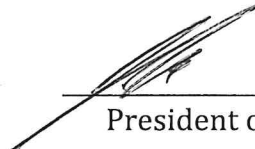
SECTION 3. That this Resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: April 3, 2023

ATTEST: 
Clerk of Council

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Director of Law


President of Council

APPROVED: April 10, 2023


Mayor



Cuyahoga County Electric

Building clean, resilient, and affordable power together

Cuyahoga County is modernizing and transforming Northeast Ohio's electricity grid by creating a new electric distribution utility. This utility will spur economic development, propel clean energy, and boost resiliency. As a first step, Cuyahoga County is developing green microgrids to benefit local industrial facilities.

TRADITIONAL MODEL

VS

CUYAHOGA COUNTY MODEL

UNRELIABLE & OUT-DATED

Northeast Ohio's energy grid is outdated and unreliable. Grid weaknesses and inadequacies are making the region increasingly vulnerable to power outages. For many industrial customers, these power interruptions interfere with production and lead to economic loss.

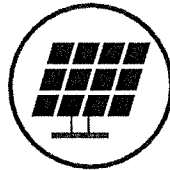


RELIABLE & STATE OF THE ART

Cuyahoga County's microgrid program will provide an advanced source of highly-reliable power. Locally produced energy and local storage, managed by smart control systems, enable microgrids to disconnect (or island) themselves during times when the main grid is down, resulting in the uninterrupted supply of electricity to microgrid customers.

DIRTY FUEL SOURCES

Over 80% of Ohio's electricity is produced from CO2 emitting fossil fuels, rendering Ohio among the top ten greenhouse gas emitters in the country. Traditional utility interests and state policies impede the transition to clean, renewable energy.

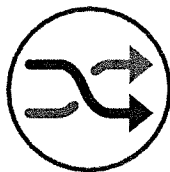


CLEAN FUEL SOURCES

Green microgrids reduce carbon emissions through the utilization of renewable and efficient sources of electricity. Solar, wind, and co-generation, for example, can be paired with battery storage and hydrogen fuel cells to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

INFLEXIBLE UTILITY & RATE STRUCTURE

Investor-owned utilities like First Energy are rigid and slow to change due to large, encumbered costs from previous investments, a culture that favors the status quo, and a business model that is heavily regulated. As such, existing programs lack innovation, and prevailing rate structures make it difficult to reduce energy costs.



FLEXIBLE UTILITY & RATE STRUCTURE

The newly formed County Utility is free of encumbered costs and excessive regulatory oversight. Our innovative approach enables programming that can be tailored to the needs of Northeast Ohio businesses, making it easier for customers to reduce energy expenses.

STATE CONTROLLED

The utility model in Ohio is outdated, crumbling, and too frequently broken. It is structured to benefit anti-competitive investor-owned utilities with guaranteed profits and protection from failure. State officials have far-reaching influence over utilities and support policies which discourage the modernization of our electric grid. Often the public good is forgotten.



LOCALLY CONTROLLED

As a locally owned distribution utility, Cuyahoga County Electric is structured to benefit Northeast Ohio communities. Local cities and businesses have more influence over utility operations, and customers benefit from customized rate structures and the adoption of advanced, grid edge solutions.

For more information, email Utility@CuyahogaCounty.us or call (216) 443-3055

Energy Infrastructure Impacts Economic Development: Microgrids Spur Development



Power outages are more than just a nuisance to businesses.

When the power goes out:

- businesses lose batches of product,
- sensitive equipment needs to be reset, recalibrated, or replaced,
- worker safety is put at risk,
- product shipments are delayed which can bring fees, and
- workforce stands idle and may need to be sent home.



Microgrids reduce or eliminate such disruptions by providing reliable, flexible, and clean energy. By keeping the lights on, microgrids create a competitive advantage for their customers. This, in turn, spurs regional economic development.

What is a Microgrid?

A microgrid is a small-scale local electricity system that can disconnect from the main grid and operate independently. During normal operation, the microgrid is connected to and obtains power from the main grid. During power outages, smart control systems enable the microgrid to disconnect from the main grid and operate in "island" mode, ensuring an uninterrupted supply of electricity to customers.

