The City of Sanibel City Hall

Attn: City Council Members

800 Dunlop Road

Sanibel, FL 33957

To the Sanibel City Council,

**On Sanibel, we pride ourselves as leaders on environment, conservation, and sustainability.** And Sanibel has more to lose from the effects of climate change than almost any other place in the country. Climate change already affects us through stronger storms, sea level rise, heat waves, warming oceans and waterways that complicate our water quality crisis, ocean acidification destroying fisheries and coral reefs, droughts on one hand and flooding from stronger downpours on the other, food production challenges, and rising insurance rates.

But there is good news, too. In the past ten years, utility-scale solar installation costs dropped by 74%, while costs for community and rooftop solar decreased by 59%.8 And production is up dramatically, with more commercial solar electric installations in 2017 than coal, gas, and nuclear combined. Installation costs for wind-powered electricity are also down 75% over the past ten years. In 2018, approximately 50% of new electricity capacity in the U.S. was from wind and solar9 driven by market forces. In fact, these favorable market forces are occurring despite the fact that the fossil fuel industry receives more than 36 times as much in subsidies than the renewable energy sector.

**Simply put, developers and the public sector are quickly realizing that embracing renewable energy sources is financially and technologically desirable.**

Many cities in Florida, including Sarasota, Gainesville, Tallahassee, Orlando, and St. Petersburg, have joined with over one hundred other cities around the country to commit to a timely transition to renewable energy. Some have already achieved 100% renewable electricity in their communities.

It is time for Sanibel to do the same, for our own sustainability and to inspire the communities around us to follow suit. It is time for Sanibel to commit to making a shift to a 100% clean energy future as part of our sustainability planning. Doing so is within our reach with currently available technology, and could allow the City of Sanibel and its taxpayers to realize considerable cost savings over time. We hope that the City of Sanibel, working in conjunction with LCEC, local businesses and residents can make this goal of 100% renewable energy a reality.

**I am asking the City Council to pass a resolution committing to switch to 100% renewable electricity with an aggressive timeline (preferably by 2030) and appoint a committee to develop a plan for implementation.**

Thank you for your time and attention to this.

Sincerely,