

# **RESOLUTIONS OF THE CITY OF HELENA, MONTANA**

## **RESOLUTION NO. 20218**

### **A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A RESIDENTIAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY LOAN PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, it is important and in the best interests of the City of Helena and its inhabitants to promote investment in energy efficient upgrades and renewable energy systems within the City because such investments help with reducing energy costs, increasing property values, improving occupant health and comfort, reducing environmental impact, and supporting the local economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the City desires to provide meaningful incentives that promote the use of energy efficiency upgrades and renewable energy systems that will benefit current citizens and future generations.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HELENA, MONTANA:**

**Section 1.** The Helena City Commission hereby establishes a Residential Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Loan Program to provide zero interest loans for the purpose of purchasing and installing energy efficiency upgrades and renewable energy systems by owners of residential property within the City.

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**Section 2.** Loans to residential property owners may only be used to purchase and install energy efficiency upgrades and renewable energy systems including, but not limited to, solar photovoltaic systems, wind turbines, geothermal and ground source heating systems, greywater systems, and solar water heating systems. The City Manager or his designee has discretion to approve the use of program funds for other energy efficiency upgrades and renewable energy systems, so long as those upgrades and improvements meet the intent of this resolution. The program funds are not available for purchase of energy-saving appliances.

**Section 3.** The maximum amount of each loan to a residential property is Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000). The term of each loan is up to ten (10) years. The annual interest rate for the entire term of the loan is zero percent (0%). Availability of loans is subject to availability of funds dedicated to this program by the City Commission.

**Section 4.** All loans made by August 31<sup>st</sup> of each year will be placed as an assessment on the recipient's property tax bill with equal, semi-annual payments for a term not to exceed ten

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(10) years. The annual assessment payments will be certified to the Department of Revenue for inclusion on the property tax records for the affected properties each year.

**Section 6.** The following definition applies for purposes of this resolution only:

“Residential property” is property that contains three (3) or fewer dwelling units per lot or tract.

**PASSED AND EFFECTIVE BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HELENA, MONTANA, THIS 5<sup>th</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER, 2015.**

/S/ James E. Smith  
MAYOR

**ATTEST:**

/S/ Debbie Havens  
CLERK OF THE COMMISSION