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Nuclear Weapons-Free City of Takoma Park Goes Nuclear Power-Free Beyond Nuclear initiative leads to council approval for 100% wind power

TAKOMA PARK, MD – The city of Takoma Park, one of the first Nuclear-Free cities in the U.S., has added new meaning to that definition with its decision to purchase 100% wind power. The move to all renewable was the result of an initiative by Beyond Nuclear's Linda Gunter, who is also a member of the Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee.

Nuclear-Free cities will not contract with a company that has any involvement in the development of nuclear weapons. To date, the nuclear-free city status has never included a ban on nuclear energy.

Speaking last December during the 25th anniversary celebration of the founding of Takoma Park as a nuclear-free city, Gunter urged the city to take the definition more literally and dispense with the approximately 40% of electricity originating from nuclear power. She told the council that if the city was serious about abolishing nuclear weapons, this could never be achieved with the continued proliferation of nuclear energy which has led countries to develop nuclear weapons.

"We are delighted that Takoma Park has once again chosen to blaze the nuclear-free trail," Gunter said. "We are even happier that, in choosing 100% wind power, the City is both carbon-free and nuclear-free.

"Nuclear power and nuclear weapons are inextricably linked. We cannot hope to abolish one without also abandoning the other. We hope that other nuclear-free cities across the country who have not already gone nuclear power-free will follow this example and reject this dangerous, dirty and expensive technology."

The Takoma Park City Council voted to approve the shift to 100% wind power when the new fiscal year budget was adopted in June, 2009.