

RESOLUTION NO. 13-244

WHEREAS, the City Council and the Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are apprised that Nexus Energy Center located on Old Madison Pike has been at work in our City since its inception on January 10, 2010, teaching and training businesses and citizens the importance and economics of clean energy application; and,

WHEREAS, to understand where Nexus Energy came from, we must go back to the year 2008 when an Executive Director was hired with grant funding by BizTech, a local business incubator, to mentor entrepreneurs and small businesses on renewable energy concepts. Ruchi Singhal was selected as Director and she spent her time working within the greater Huntsville community on numerous energy efficient and renewable energy issues. One of the main themes of that day was the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), more commonly known as the Stimulus Bill. Through Director Singhal's dedicated work in putting together proposals for local businesses and universities pursuing funding, one thing became obvious, Huntsville was definitely interested in clean energy; and,

WHEREAS, federal grants eventually ended and plans were made to keep clean energy moving in Huntsville. Together with like-minded leaders, Nexus Energy Center evolved from the vision of key leaders in the community and was established upon conclusion of Huntsville Mayoral Green 13 initiatives. With no funds available and with an unpaid Director, application to become a 501(c)(3) organization was an immediate need. Gaining 501(c)(3) status would qualify Nexus for many grants. Within six months the first grant was won, and what is now the Worthwhile Investments Save Energy (WISE) Home Energy Program was started. Success in establishing the WISE program led Nexus to two additional State Energy Program (SEP) grants to grow energy efficiency in Alabama. WISE helps homeowners all across Northern and Central Alabama save energy. This program was quickly embraced, and homeowners who participate began to discard the chains of high utility bills; and,

WHEREAS, Nexus has progressed to providing rebates for approximately 800 homeowners who have implemented energy efficient improvements equal to \$4.89 million. These residential improvements have saved over \$330,000 in energy dollars and are decreasing grid consumption by 20%, thus stimulating the economic impact of North Alabama while easing grid strain; and,

WHEREAS, Nexus Energy has also aided in the training of more than 220 unemployed workers including veterans in areas of renewable energy installation. This has been made possible by working with local community colleges such as Drake State Technical by teaching workforce development subjects in green skills training. These workers now have the abilities for growing the clean energy market; and,

WHEREAS, the Nexus Energy Solutions Center is an exciting feature. It is a place for organizations and companies to hold training, brainstorm new energy ideas, host small trade shows, market their energy capabilities, conduct meetings and conferences. The Solutions Center is a unique space used to create visibility for partners in Alabama to cultivate the clean energy economy. Through demonstrated success, Nexus has continued growth, acquired additional staff, increased its service territory and offers many new products.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, hereby acknowledge, salute and express special appreciation for the remarkable impact Nexus Energy is having in the Huntsville community. We wish Director Ruchi Singhal, Daniel Tait, Megan McFerran, Sheila Stewart, the Nexus team of volunteers, and supporting organizations much success in delivering methods for a cleaner, energy efficient City.

ADOPTED on this the 9th day of May, 2013.

President of the City Council of
the City of Huntsville

APPROVED on this the 9th day of May, 2013.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville,
Alabama