RESOLUTION NO. 429-07 INTRODUCED BY CHRISTOPHER A. CUNNINGHAM, DISTRICT 1 LEGISLATOR, KATHLEEN LABUDA, DISTRICT 2 LEGISLATOR, ELWIN WOOD, DISTRICT 3 LEGISLATOR, JONATHAN ROUIS, DISTRICT 4 LEGISLATOR, FRANK ARMSTRONG, DISTRICT 5 LEGISLATOR, JODI GOODMAN, DISTRICT 6 LEGISLATOR, LENI BINDER, DISTRICT 7 LEGISLATOR, RON HIATT, DISTRICT 8 LEGISLATOR AND SAM WOHL, DISTRICT 9 LEGISLATOR TO HAVE THE COUNTY OF SULLIVAN COMMITTED TO PROMOTING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE BY ACCEPTING A GREEN VISION STATEMENT

WHEREAS, the citizens of Sullivan County are committed to the challenge of creating and maintaining a truly sustainable community; and

WHEREAS, the County of Sullivan (hereinafter referred to as “County”) recognizes that sustainability must be an organizing principle for all County actions and programs and that it must always consider the independent goals of protecting the environment, promoting social equity, preserving human health and achieving a strong economy; and

WHEREAS, the Sullivan County Strategic Plan, “Sullivan 2020”, establishes sustainability as a priority; and

WHEREAS, sustainability is defined as meeting human needs with the protection of the natural environment so that these needs can be met not only in the present, but in the future; and

WHEREAS, sustainable development can be conceptually broken into three constituent parts: environmental, economic, and social; and

WHEREAS, the County must be a leader in raising awareness and encouraging individuals, businesses, municipalities, schools, and institutions to consider the potential impacts of their actions in the context of sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the County recognizes that stakeholder and citizen participation is essential to the development of a long term program for sustainability; and

WHEREAS, County departments, through changes in daily operations, ongoing programs and long range planning are able to simultaneously have a positive impact on the environment, accomplish economic efficiency of county government and preserve the character of our communities and health of its residents, and

WHEREAS, the quality of the County’s air, water, land and natural resources have historically attracted and continue to be the underpinning of its industry as well as a key reason for individuals and families choosing to make their home in the County; and

WHEREAS, agriculture is a major component of the County’s economic viability and collaboration with state agencies, not-for-profit organizations, educators and other agricultural specialists can assist with developing programs to maintain working farms; and

WHEREAS, the creation and consumption of energy effects the County both visually and economically and can impact the health of both current and future citizens; and

WHEREAS, County collaboration with utilities can effectively address energy and fuel conservation, as well as transportation issues in the future; and

WHEREAS, a healthy economy includes policies to support economic development, local businesses, encourage and require where possible, local hiring, improve job placement and retraining services, and support the development and retention of green businesses, and
WHEREAS, the County has educational resources which can be a powerful voice during the planning and implementation of best practices.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County is committed to promoting a sustainable future by accepting its responsibility to implement a plan of action to:

1. Promote energy efficiency and resource conservation by requiring future County facilities to meet LEED certification standards or equivalent sustainable principles, practices and technologies, and
2. Provide technical assistance and education to municipalities with respect to green building standards, renewable energy and other “best practices,” and
3. Operate county buildings in a sustainable manner, by conducting regular energy audits, decreasing energy needs and increasing energy efficiency, and encouraging alternative energy production, and
4. Evaluate its operations and programs and use where appropriate, “green” procurement policies, and
5. Coordinate with the appropriate agencies to prioritize the branding of Sullivan County as “green,” and
6. Coordinate with the appropriate agencies in forming “one voice” to market the eco-tourism industry, recruit sustainable businesses and market and attract green lodging, and
7. Encourage all contracting agencies to utilize green practices as part of their goals and objectives to recruit green businesses, and
8. Develop an environmentally friendly county fleet and vehicle replacement schedule considering hybrid and alternative fuel vehicles, and
9. Develop strategies and collaborate with municipalities and other entities to promote opportunities for non-motorized travel such as bicycling trails and walking paths, and
10. Undertake to develop incentive programs with the Sullivan County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) to encourage the development of sustainable industries and/or projects that meet the prevailing sustainable principles, practices and technologies, and
11. Support ongoing recruitment efforts by the Sullivan County Partnership for Economic Development and other organizations to develop sustainable industries, and
12. Implement flood mitigation, farmland and open space protection plans, which will provide an inventory of County resources to be preserved, and
13. Reduce the disposal of materials which degrade the environment by encouraging and enforcing recycling of all materials accepted by the Materials Recovery Facility, and
14. Coordinate with the Sullivan County Division of Health and Family Services to identify areas where environmental health and sustainable practices can be incorporated into their mission, educational programs, and service delivery plan, and
15. Establish benchmarks for measuring the County’s progress on sustainability goals and review the benchmarks annually to determine the extent to which they have been attained and to modify them to reflect progress and appropriate changes.

Moved by Mrs. LaBuda, seconded by Mrs. Binder, put to a vote, unanimously carried and declared duly adopted on motion September 27, 2007.