THE TOWN OF SURRY

PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (PACE) ORDINANCE.

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, the 120 Maine Legislature has enacted Public Law 2009, Chapter 591, "An Act to Increase the Affordability of Clean Energy for Homeowners and Businesses," also known as "the Property Assessed Clean Energy Act" or "the PACE Act"; and

WHEREAS, that Act authorizes a municipality that has adopted a Property Assessed Clean Energy ("PACE") Ordinance to establish a PACE program so that owners of qualifying property can access financing for energy saving improvements to their properties located in the City/Town, financed by funds awarded to the Efficiency Maine Trust under the Federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program and by other funds available for this purpose, and to enter into a contract with the Trust to administer functions of its PACE program; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality wishes to establish a PACE program; and NOW THEREFORE, the Municipality hereby enacts the following Ordinance:

ARTICLE I - PURPOSE AND ENABLING LEGISLATION

§ XX-1 Purpose

By and through this Chapter, the Town of Surry declares as its public purpose the establishment of a municipal program to enable its citizens to participate in a Property Assessed Clean Energy ("PACE") program so that owners of qualifying property can access financing for energy saving improvements to their properties located in the Town of Surry. The Town of Surry declares its purpose and the provisions of this Chapter/Ordinance to be in conformity with federal and State laws.

§ XX-2 Enabling Legislation

The Town of Surry enacts this Chapter/Ordinance pursuant to Public Law 2009, Chapter 591 of the 124 1stMaine State Legislature -- "An Act To Increase the Affordability of Clean Energy for Homeowners and Businesses," also known as "the Property Assessed Clean Energy Act" or "the PACE Act" (codified at 35-A M.R.S.A. § 10151, et seq.).

ARTICLE II- TITLE AND DEFINITIONS

§ XX-3 Title

This Chapter/Ordinance shall be known and may be cited as "The Town of Surry Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Ordinance" (the "Ordinance").
9. **Qualifying property.** "Qualifying property" means real property located in the PACE district of the Municipality.

10. **Renewable energy installation.** "Renewable energy installation" means a fixture, product, system, device or interacting group of devices installed behind the meter at a qualifying property, or on contiguous property under common ownership, that produces energy or heat from renewable sources, including, but not limited to, photovoltaic systems, solar thermal systems, biomass systems, landfill gas to energy systems, geothermal systems, wind systems, wood pellet systems and any other systems eligible for funding under federal Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds or federal Clean Renewable Energy Bonds.

11. **Trust.** "Trust" means the Efficiency Maine Trust established in 35-A M.R.S.A. § 10103 and/or its agent(s), if any.

**ARTICLE III - PACE PROGRAM**

1. **Establishment; funding.** The Municipality hereby establishes a PACE program allowing owners of qualifying property located in the PACE district who so choose to access financing for energy saving improvements to their property through PACE loans administered by the Trust or its agent. PACE loan funds are available from the Trust in municipalities that 1) adopt a PACE Ordinance, 2) adopt and implement a local public outreach and education plan, 3) enter into a PACE administration contract with the Trust to establish the terms and conditions of the Trust's administration of the municipality's PACE program, and 4) agree to assist and cooperate with the Trust in its administration of the municipality's PACE program.

2. **Amendment to PACE program.** In addition, the Municipality may from time to time amend this Ordinance to use any other funding sources made available to it or appropriated by it for the express purpose of its PACE program, and the Municipality shall be responsible for administration of loans made from those other funding sources.

**ARTICLE IV - CONFORMITY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE TRUST**

1. **Standards adopted; Rules promulgated; model documents.** If the Trust adopts standards, promulgates rules, or establishes model documents subsequent to the Municipality's adoption of this Ordinance and those standards, rules or model documents substantially conflict with this Ordinance, the Municipality shall take necessary steps to conform this Ordinance and its PACE program to those standards, rules, or model documents.
2. Liability of Municipal Officials; Liability of Municipality

A. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, municipal officers and municipal officials, including, without limitation, tax assessors and tax collectors, are not personally liable to the Trust or to any other person for claims, of whatever kind or nature, under or related to a PACE program, including, without limitation, claims for or related to uncollected PACE assessments.

B. Other than the fulfillment of its obligations specified in a PACE administration contract with the Trust entered into under Article VI, §1(A) above, a municipality has no liability to a property owner for or related to energy savings improvements financed under a PACE program.

Adopted: April 25, 2011

Stephen D. Bemiss  Dale W. Sprinkle  William I. Matlock

Date: 5-17-2011

A True Copy Attest: Angela Smith, Clerk