

**350.org Louisville Talking Points for
Meeting with Council Members
Regarding the 100% Clean Energy Resolution**

1. The 100% Clean Energy (renewable energy¹) Resolution proposed by Louisville citizens and sponsored by President James was developed to respond to the challenge of climate change. We have only to look at the recent Hurricane Florence, and the wildfires that devastated California and the Northwest this summer, and a myriad of other major hurricane and flooding events to know that climate change is real, and it has major human and financial implications.
2. The more frequent and severe flooding and storms being seen in our own region have huge implications and will necessarily divert resources from other vital areas of the city's budget and strain the city's ability to plan for its long-term needs. The costs to address the results of major weather events will only accelerate over time.
3. The main driver of accelerated climate change is our heavy dependence on fossil fuels which emit greenhouse gases. There is no credible path to a safe climate that includes continued long-term combustion of fossil fuels or the construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure.
4. A commitment to clean energy and energy efficiency will reduce carbon emissions and climate change, and reduce air pollution and the associated public health risks and costs. Air pollution from fossil fuels use contributes to the higher rates of asthma and other respiratory diseases in the metro Louisville area, and results in higher health costs as well as 46 deaths and 49,000 missed days of work or school in the Louisville metro area annually².
5. Louisville is especially vulnerable in the new emerging global clean energy economy. According to LG&E's website, in 2017, 99% of electricity delivered to Louisville consumers by LG&E was generated from fossil fuels (coal and natural gas) with only 1% from renewable energy³. This, and the promise of a carbon tax being introduced in coming years, will cost the city heavily and threaten its resiliency to meet its own energy needs.

¹ For purposes of both the Resolution and this document, "clean" and "renewable" mean the same thing.

² Estimated Excess Morbidity and Mortality Associated with Air Pollution", Annals of the American Thoracic Society, December 11, 2017. Found at <http://www.thoracic.org/about/newsroom/press-releases/journal/health-of-the-air-2017-report.pdf>.

³ LG&E KU, What is LG&E and KU's energy mix now, and what will it look like in the future?, <https://lge-ku.com/help/knowledge-base/what-lge-and-kus-energy-mix-now-and-what-will-it-look-future>.

A quote from Adam Edelen: “It's not just about climate change, but *Louisville is missing out on the tremendous economic opportunities of the emerging global green economy.* These companies will not come to Louisville without it being a renewable energy city.”

6. A just transition to 100% renewable energy will create high-quality local jobs⁴. Renewable energy job training programs will also present new opportunities and be especially valuable to youth and low-income residents.
7. The most often asked question is “Can Louisville actually achieve 100% renewable energy?” The cities, countries, and multinational corporations now committing to and achieving 100% RE are showing the way. Over 80 cities and two states in the U.S have adopted this goal, and 6 cities in states as diverse as Texas, Kansas, and Vermont have already achieved it⁵. The countries of Portugal, Albania, Iceland, Paraguay and Costa Rica have achieved 100% RE and 140 multinational corporations have committed to this goal^{6,7}. Louisville, which is known for its creativity and innovation, can do this too.
8. The Resolution builds on the Pledge to support the Paris Climate Agreement and the Mayor’s Climate Compact to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as well as the Metro Council’s unanimous adoption of a Resolution for Solar to expand solar energy and efficiency in the city.
9. Achieving these energy goals will require broad input and action from government, business, and community leaders, LG&E, and individual citizens. Everyone in the community will be impacted in this transition to clean energy, so all must have a seat at the table.

⁴ Inside Climate News, U.S. Renewable Energy Jobs Employ 800,000+ People and Rising: In Charts, May 30, 2017, <https://insideclimatenews.org/news/26052017/infographic-renewable-energy-jobs-worldwide-solar-wind-trump>.

⁵ Ready for 100 Campaign, 100% Commitments in Cities, Counties, and States, Sierra Club, <https://www.sierraclub.org/ready-for-100/commitments> (Achieved: Aspen CO, Burlington VT, Georgetown TX, Greensburg KS, Rock Port MO, Kodiak Island AK) (Among the cities which have committed: Atlanta, Cleveland, Columbia SC, Denver, Fayetteville AR, Madison WI, Salt Lake City, St. Louis)

⁶ Which Countries Run on 100% Renewable Energy? <https://www.seeker.com/which-countries-run-on-100-renewable-energy-2011244840.html>

⁷ RE100 Companies, <http://there100.org/companies>.