Ready for 100

Ready For 100% Clean and Renewable Energy!

The Sierra Club's Ready For 100 campaign advocates for an affordable and equitable energy system powered by clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar.

The time for 100% clean, renewable energy in the United States has come. For too long, coal, oil, and gas companies have jeopardized the health of our communities and put our children's future at risk. We do not need to rely on fossil fuels; we have cleaner and more affordable solutions right now. It's time to put power back in the hands of our communities and leave fossil fuels behind. **We are #ReadyFor100.**

Why We Need 100% Renewable Energy

The oil, coal, and fracked gas industries sacrifice the health of every individual and family across the country by polluting the air we breathe and water we drink. More than four out of every ten people in the United States live in an area with unhealthy levels of air pollution.[1] According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, global society must eliminate net greenhouse gas pollution by 2050 to avoid catastrophic climate change.[2]

But fossil fuels contribute to more than just the problem of climate change — they also cement issues of inequality by disproportionately impacting poor communities and communities of color. Poisonous coal and gas facilities are often placed in low-income areas, and utilities lock families into

these costly and dirty energy sources by blocking cleaner, locally-sourced, and democratic alternatives.

Families across the U.S. have reported having to choose between putting dinner on the table or paying utility bills, and every year thousands are left in the dark during sweltering heat waves and freezing cold spells.[3] Simply put, power costs that are too high destabilize the health and financial stability of already vulnerable people. Today, 85% of U.S. adults supporting transitioning to 100% clean, renewable energy.[4] This is a clear opportunity to dismantle inequities and create stronger, healthier communities.

The 100% Clean Energy Opportunity

Powering our communities with 100% clean and renewable energy can create family-sustaining jobs, and help forge a more resilient national economy by reducing our reliance on polluting energy sources and making sure all families have access to clean, affordable power.

- Since 2009, the price of solar has dropped 90%, and the price of wind power is down 64%, resulting in more energy savings for people across the United States and the world.[5]

- Local wind and solar energy resources are already cheaper than electricity from three-fourths of U.S. coal-fired power plants. By 2025, wind and solar power will be cheap enough to replace 86% of the U.S. coal fleet.[6]

- The renewable energy industry already employs 2.5 times as many workers as the fossil fuel industry, providing millions of new jobs in growing sectors.[7]

- Local investment in clean energy projects soared to total over $64 billion nationwide in 2018.[8]

- The switch to wind and solar has already prevented 12,700 premature deaths from fossil fuel pollution in the United States this past decade.[9]

As we transition to 100% renewable energy, the benefits of the new clean energy economy must be equitably shared. This means that the jobs and opportunities provide livable wages, healthcare and retirement benefits, and union representation for workers.

How Ready For 100 Will Help Us Get There

With the support of Sierra Club members and volunteers, local residents, and partner organizations, states and over ten dozen cities in the United States have committed to transition to 100% clean energy. This list represents more than one in four Americans, comprising tens of millions of people and over 20% of total energy consumption nationwide.

Many of these communities aim to achieve their 100% goals by 2035 or earlier, while others have already achieved this goal and are reaping the benefits. Transitioning to 100% renewable energy has become a leading strategy for businesses and communities aiming to cut costs and pollution, boost the economy, and pursue ambitious climate action.

Each of these victories is a result of local residents and community leaders advocating for clean and renewable energy. Switching from dirty fuels to renewable energy is becoming the new normal — to ensure 100% clean energy is accessible to 100% of the people, the transition already underway must be equitable and just.

- Several communities, including Burlington, Vermont and Aspen, Colorado, are already powered entirely by wind, solar, and other sources of clean and renewable energy.

- In 2019 alone, Maine, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Washington, Washington D.C., and Puerto Rico established 100% clean energy statewide goals, joining California and Hawaii. Together, these jurisdictions make up over 25% of the U.S. GDP.

- In 2017, the United States Conference of Mayors passed a resolution supporting 100% renewable energy in cities nationwide.

- Utilities are responding to local demands for clean energy committing to their own clean energy transition. Idaho Power, Green Mountain Power, Xcel Energy in Colorado, and others have set targets for providing their customers with carbon-free electricity.[10]

How You Can Take Action

Voices all across the country are declaring that we are #ReadyFor100. With more than 3.5 million members and supporters, the Sierra Club is harnessing its grassroots power to accelerate the transition away from fossil fuels in communities across the United States.

We urge communities throughout the nation to become 100% renewable energy leaders and join cities from St. Petersburg, Florida to Salt Lake City, Utah that have already established bold 100% clean energy goals.

Endnotes

1 American Lung Association 2 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 3 NAACP 4 Yale Program on Climate Communication 5 IRENA
6 Energy Innovation, Vibrant Clean Energy 7 National Association of State Energy Officials, Energy Futures Initiative 8 S&P Global Market Intelligence 9 Nature 10 EQ Research