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Elected officials respond to ‘A Rally for a Coal-Free Community’

Madison, Wis. -- On Saturday, May 12, the Sierra Club’s Beyond Coal Campaign will host [‘A Rally for a Coal - Free Community: For Kids, Climate and Health’](#) in advance of Madison Gas and Electric’s annual shareholder meeting. The rally calls for the utility, whose energy mix is approximately 63% coal, to move off of coal, starting with the Elm Road coal plant in Oak Creek, and replace that energy with clean energy.

In response, Rep. Taylor, County Board Supervisor Chawla, and Ald. Rummel released the following statements:

“It is unacceptable for coal-powered energy to continue to harm the health of children in Wisconsin. Our state lags behind other midwestern states in developing renewable energy resources that create jobs and protect the health of our environment and our families. It is time for Wisconsin to invest in the clean energy economy rather than exporting billions of dollars from our economy on old, dirty energy sources like coal. For Wisconsin to make this transition, we will need bold action from state and local governments and from our utilities. It is time for MGE to lead the way towards renewable energy.” - **Representative Chris Taylor**

“Given the moves the Trump administration is taking, it is up to us to lead the fight locally for a clean energy future. Dane County can power our economy with solar, invest in energy efficiency, and serve as a model county that leads by example to fight climate change if our utilities work with us and divest from coal. Renewable energy is no longer a sunk cost. It is an investment that is profitable financially and environmentally, and it is time for us to commit to this investment.” - **Dane County Board Supervisor District 6 Yogesh Chawla**

“Our city knows how important it is to invest in sustainable and clean infrastructure, to protect water and air quality and to fight for children’s health. If we are committed to these things, our power cannot come from coal plants that are directly polluting other cities in Wisconsin.” - **Madison Alder Marsha Rummel**

[A Rally for a Coal-Free Community](#) will take place on Saturday, May 12 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. The event starts with a teach-in featuring stories from neighbors to the Oak Creek/Elm Road Coal Plants at 2:00 pm at the Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center (953 Jenifer Street, Madison) and will continue with a rally at McPike Park (formerly named Central Park, 202 S Ingersoll Street, Madison) at 3:00 pm.

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About the Sierra Club

The Sierra Club is America's largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization, with more than 3 million members and supporters. In addition to helping people from all backgrounds explore nature and our outdoor heritage, the Sierra Club works to promote clean energy, safeguard the health of our communities, protect wildlife, and preserve our remaining wild places through grassroots activism, public education, lobbying, and legal action. For more information, visit www.sierraclub.org.