

100 percent clean energy is almost here

But not if fossil fuel politics can help it



Sierra Club photo

By Ellie Cohen, The Climate Center

On May 8, for the first time, California's electric grid ran for 15 minutes on close to 100 percent clean energy. A week later, we did it again. Achieving a carbon-free electricity grid is no longer a distant dream. We're closer than ever to making this our reality every day.

Getting to 100 percent clean power was no accident. It only happened because of the persistence of a broad movement of people like you and me pushing our leaders to accelerate the transition to a clean, equitable, renewable energy economy.

We now know what's possible. By 2035, California can be powered by clean energy all day, every day — but first we've got to overcome oil and gas influence on our politics.

On May 10, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) released its [Draft Scoping Plan](#), which will determine California's energy and climate policy for years to come. Fossil fuel and big utility lobbyists have spent [millions](#) of dollars to influence the process, and it shows in CARB's draft proposal. The plan calls for delaying carbon neutrality until 2045 — a dangerously late timeline that puts California way behind other states and nations. CARB's plan also relies on expensive and failed carbon capture and storage technology that perpetuates fossil fuel pollution, harms frontline communities, and misses an opportunity to scale up [proven, just, nature-based carbon sequestration](#).

As UC Berkeley Professor and energy expert Dan Kammen [said](#), “The California Air Resources Board cannot afford to fumble the ball this late in the game by moving forward with a risky, ineffective scoping plan that relies on a faulty pathway to neutrality, and that disregards Governor Newsom's call to accelerate our ambition.”

It's vital that CARB raise its climate ambition. We need everyone in our movement to put the pressure on between now and June when the final Scoping Plan is released. [Tell the California Air Resources Board that we can and must achieve carbon neutrality by 2035 or sooner!](#)