READY FOR 100%

2017 Case Study Report
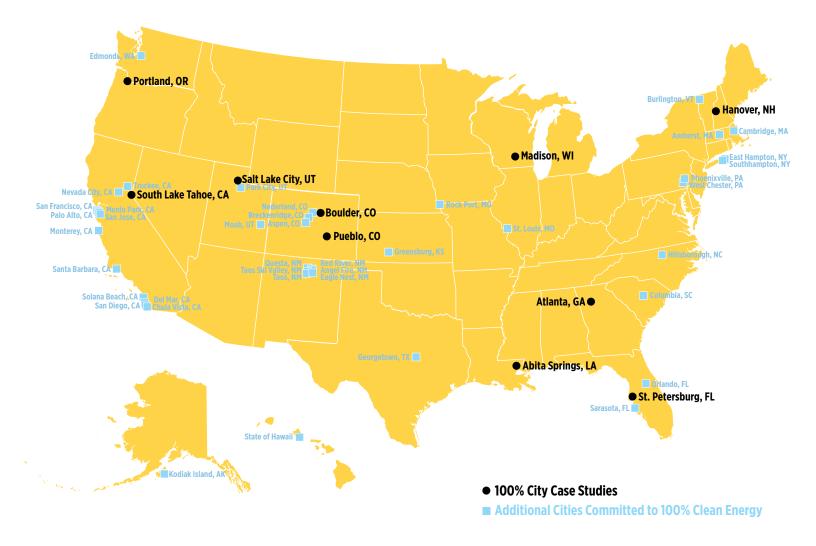
CITIES ARE READY FOR 100% CLEAN ENERGY

Abita Springs, LA | Atlanta, GA | Boulder, CO | Hanover, NH | Madison, WI | Portland, OR | Pueblo, CO | Salt Lake City, UT | South Lake Tahoe, CA | St. Petersburg, FL

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Map legend:
- ● **100% City Case Studies**
- ■ **Additional Cities Committed to 100% Clean Energy**

Map labels:
- Edmonds, WA
- Portland, OR
- Burlington, VT
- Hanover, NH
- Cambridge, MA
- Amherst, MA
- East Hampton, NY
- Southhampton, NY
- Madison, WI
- Phoenixville, PA
- West Chester, PA
- Salt Lake City, UT
- Park City, UT
- Nevada City, CA
- Truckee, CA
- South Lake Tahoe, CA
- San Francisco, CA
- Palo Alto, CA
- Menlo Park, CA
- San Jose, CA
- Nederland, CO
- Breckenridge, CO
- Moab, UT
- Aspen, CO
- Boulder, CO
- Rock Port, MO
- Monterey, CA
- Pueblo, CO
- St. Louis, MO
- Santa Barbara, CA
- Greensburg, KS
- Hillsborough, NC
- Questa, NM
- Red River, NM
- Taos Ski Valley, NM
- Angel Fire, NM
- Taos, NM
- Eagle Nest, NM
- Columbia, SC
- Solana Beach, CA
- Del Mar, CA
- San Diego, CA
- Chula Vista, CA
- Atlanta, GA
- Georgetown, TX
- Abita Springs, LA
- Orlando, FL
- St. Petersburg, FL
- Sarasota, FL
- State of Hawaii
- Kodiak Island, AK

Introduction

Cities and towns across the United States have assumed a new mantle of leadership over the past year: establishing bold commitments to move away from dirty fuels and repower their communities with 100% clean, renewable energy.

During this time of federal inaction, cities are at the forefront of progress. They are taking bold steps to improve the lives of residents locally and to address the global threat of climate change. This report showcases 10 cities that are doing just that: they are committed to 100% clean, renewable energy and working to realize that vision.

At the time of this publication, 50 cities in the United States have committed to 100% renewable energy in one or more energy-use sector: electricity, buildings, or transportation. These 100% clean

energy commitments build on the leadership of **early adopters** like Greensburg, Kansas, a town that rallied around clean energy to rebuild "stronger, better, greener" after it was nearly wiped off the map by a massive tornado in May 2007. Greensburg became one of the first cities in the United States powered entirely with clean, renewable sources of energy like wind and solar.

A transition to 100% clean energy presents an opportunity to address inequality and environmental injustice in our communities. Today's extractive

Summary Table—Impact of 100% Renewable Electricity Commitments and Endorsements

	Number of Cities	% of U.S. Population	% of U.S. Electricity Consumption	Potential Carbon Dioxide Emissions Reduction by 2030 *(Million Metric Tons)*	Potential New Renewable Energy Capacity *(Megawatts, if Wind Energy)*
Community Commitments to 100% Renewable Electricity	50 *(+4 counties, and Hawaii)*	3%	2.0%	23	23,000
Mayors for 100% Clean Energy Endorsements	178	6%	5%	84	62,000

Methodology can be found in the Appendix B

energy system disproportionately threatens low-income communities and communities of color. As we transform how we power our communities, cities must make an intentional effort to improve social equity.

Some cities are beginning to integrate equity into their climate and energy plans; some are acting now by structuring incentives that enable low-income households to access solar and other local clean energy sources. We can achieve a cleaner and fairer energy system that works for everyone by ensuring that the communities most affected—and presently underserved—are the driving force behind a just energy transition, shaping the solutions to repower our cities and empower people across the United States.

Many cities are just at the beginning of the journey to 100% clean energy. Success will hinge upon what they do next to implement their vision, and on the cooperation they garner from local residents, businesses, agencies, and, in some cases, their electric utility company. A thoughtful, inclusive public planning process that identifies accessible, affordable energy transition pathways and solicits participation from community members is critical to success.

While each city is pursuing this goal distinctly, the benefits of the transition are widespread. Developing clean energy sources like wind power and solar—

especially when combined with measures to reduce energy waste—translates directly to job creation, a reliable energy supply, lower energy costs, improved public health, and a better environment.

Going renewable is the right thing to do—and now is the right time to do it. In addition to the proliferation of 100% renewable energy commitments by municipalities, more than 170 mayors, both Democrats and Republicans, have pledged to power their cities entirely with renewable energy. And the United States Conference of Mayors, the nation's largest nonpartisan organization of cities, approved a historic resolution this year, establishing a policy framework to support 100% clean and renewable energy goals in cities nationwide.

Across the country, people are rising up to proclaim that they are #ReadyFor100, building a movement to lead the United States towards 100% clean and renewable energy for all.

As this movement continues to take shape from coast to coast, it's up to all of us to determine what a true 100% clean energy economy looks like, who benefits from it, and how we will get there in a way that lifts up all people and communities.

If the 10 cities highlighted in this report demonstrate anything, it's that local leaders and communities are up to the task.

—JODIE VAN HORN
Ready For 100 Director

Abita Springs, LA

100% RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY BY 2030

Economic considerations drive conservative, rural Louisiana town to clean energy.

About an hour north of New Orleans, you'll find the solar-powered Abita Springs Brewing Company and, one day soon, a solar-powered town. That's thanks to a resolution passed by the Town Council in March 2017 and modeled after a proclamation by Mayor Greg Lemons—a card-carrying Republican in this politically red, oil-producing state. His primary motivation? Economics. Solar gives Abita Springs a way to save money now and in the future, as the price of fossil fuels continues to rise.

The mayor has appointed 15 residents to the Committee for Energy Sustainability, which will work with his office and the Town Council on next steps. While the Committee develops a roadmap for reaching the goal, they are engaging the public through regular educational events and community discussions. The committee estimates that converting to solar-powered LED street lights would save the city more than $20,000 annually—a significant amount for a small town with a constrained budget. Other possible routes to

"Transitioning to 100% renewable energy is a practical decision we're making for our environment, our economy, and for what our constituents want. Politics has nothing to do with it for me. Clean energy just makes good economic sense."

— MAYOR GREG LEMONS
Abita Springs Mayor

City Stats

- Population: 2,529
- Electric Utility: Central Louisiana Electric Cooperative (Cleco) and Washington-St. Tammany Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- First municipality in Louisiana to commit to 100% clean energy

the 100% goal include: net metering; rooftop solar; turning an old sod farm and other farm acreage into solar farms; an energy efficiency retrofit for the 127-year-old Town Hall and installing solar panels on public buildings. The Committee is also working to install electric vehicle (EV) chargers around town to enable wider electric vehicle use in the region.

WHERE "NO" TO DIRTY ENERGY MEANS "YES" TO CLEAN

Economic considerations are at the core of the Abita Springs clean energy push, but Lemons notes that part of his job is looking out for the city's future—and that includes looking out for the environment.
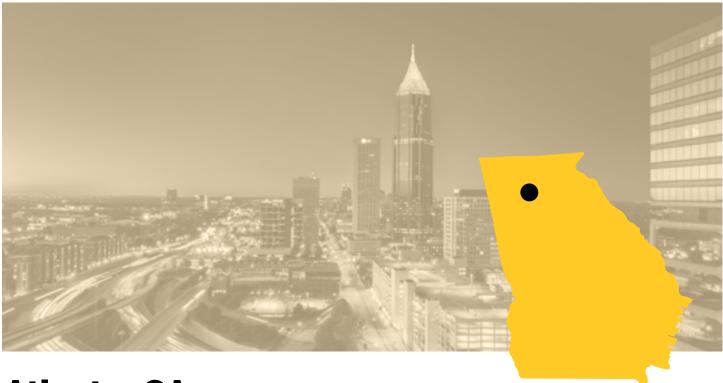
In recent years, Abita Springs sued the Helis Oil & Gas Company over proposed fracking operations, citing concerns about air pollution and threats to the aquifer. Although the city lost the court battle, the oil company eventually abandoned the project as economically unviable. Officials and residents now have hope that the city's energy can come from cleaner sources.

Atlanta, GA

100% RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY BY 2035
Largest city in the Southeast aims to fuse clean energy, equity, and sustainability goals.

"Whereas the City's commitment to 100% clean energy will create good local jobs for Atlanta residents, reduce air pollution and associated public health risks, reduce the strain on water resources, and save consumers money... And these sources of energy have significant public health co-benefits associated that can help address pressing environmental justice challenges in sensitive communities in Atlanta."

With these words, Atlanta's City Council voted unanimously to power all municipal facilities (e.g., recreation centers, schools, libraries, water and wastewater treatment plants, and the world's busiest airport, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport) with clean energy by 2025, and the entire community by 2035. By January 2018, the City of Atlanta Mayor's Office of Resilience will develop a plan that includes interim milestones, budget projections, equity metrics, and financing options. Working with a team of consultants, the city will study the policy scenarios that will lead it through the transition to 100% clean power. Residents from all quadrants will be invited to share their thoughts and concerns during an extensive public engagement period that will inform the city's plan to achieve this goal.

STRONG PAST AND PROMISE
Many supporters in Atlanta talk of the push for clean energy in terms of job creation, affordable energy, and equity, echoing the words and focus of the resolution itself and the tenets of sustainability. Indeed, Atlanta already has a robust sustainability initiative underway, called "Power to Change." One of the 10 listed sustainability impact areas is "Energy Efficiency and Renewables."

Atlanta already boasts a long list of accomplishments in clean energy and energy efficiency. In 2015, The City launched Solar Atlanta, a request for proposals to install solar on municipal buildings, such as recreation centers and fire stations. More recently, the city participated in the U.S. Department of Energy's SolSmart solar program, which led to streamlining the solar-permitting process for homeowners and businesses. The program was so successful that the city was awarded the SolSmart Gold designation. The City also mandated benchmarking and disclosure (monitoring and reporting energy and water consumption, a practice that has been proven to drive energy savings on its own, along with regular energy and water audits) in commercial buildings larger than 25,000 square feet—that includes 80% of the footprint of the City's entire commercial sector. In addition, Atlanta is the national leader in the U.S. Department of Energy's Better Buildings Challenge, with more than 114 million square feet of Atlanta's building stock committed to reducing its energy and water consumption 20% by 2020.

Another major milestone, achieved in 2017, was an update to the City's Sustainable Design Guidelines for municipal building stock. This ordinance requires all new construction, as well as major renovations of City-financed projects, to achieve LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver

> *"We know that moving to clean energy will create good jobs, clean up our air and water, and lower our residents' utility bills. We never thought we'd be away from landline phones or desktop computers, but today we carry our smartphones around and they're more powerful than anything we used to have. We have to set an ambitious goal or we're never going to get there."*
>
> **— KWANZA HALL**
> *Atlanta City Councilmember*

City Stats

- Population: 472,522
- Electric Utility: Georgia Power (Southern Company)
- 100% renewable energy for city buildings by 2025; community-wide by 2035
- First city in Georgia and largest in the South to make commitment

certification, and all existing City-financed properties over 25,000 square feet to earn LEED certification for existing buildings.

The Mayor's Office of Resilience also spearheaded the passage of Atlanta's first-ever energy-savings performance contracts for energy and water efficiency upgrades in 100 City-owned buildings. This will be the largest municipal project of its kind to be undertaken in the United States.

Two of Atlanta's major businesses have confirmed their support, with both Coca Cola and Interface pledging their own 100% renewable energy goals. Yet, the highest level of cooperation will have to come straight from the source: Georgia Power, Atlanta's electricity provider. The utility's portfolio is currently just 2% renewable, favoring other energy sources such as coal, natural gas, and nuclear. However, Georgia Power is cited among the top utilities in the country for solar capacity, and its long-term plan calls for adding about 1,600 megawatts of renewable capacity, mostly in solar power, by 2021.

Boulder, CO

100% RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY BY 2030
Front Range city pushing for municipal utility in quest for clean energy.

Set 5,000 feet above sea level, in the foothills of Colorado's Rocky Mountains, Boulder has long been a bastion of environmental sustainability and an outdoor enthusiast's paradise. In December 2016, those credentials were burnished when the city council approved a goal of powering 100% of the city's electricity supply with renewable energy by 2030, with an interim goal of 40% by 2020. The city has also committed to generating energy from local targets and reducing overall greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2050.

City Stats

- Population: 108,090
- Electric Utility: Xcel Energy (in negotiations to form municipal-owned utility)
- First U.S. city with voter-approved climate tax (passed in 2006; extended in 2012 and 2015)

Boulder boasts nearly as many bicycles as residents, a fun fact that reflects a long history of progressive views and actions on sustainability. The city made waves in 2007 as the first in the nation to enact a voter-approved Climate Action Plan (CAP) and a carbon tax, extended by voters in both 2012 and 2015, which is levied on residents and businesses based on electricity consumption. The revenue from this tax, which amounts to roughly $1.8 million annually, goes toward deploying Boulder Climate Commitment strategies.

> *"Boulder has put words into action by setting a community-wide goal to achieve 100% clean, renewable energy by 2030. We hope this action inspires other cities across Colorado to commit to creating a clean energy future that moves beyond dependence on fossil fuels, and creates more prosperity and opportunity for all."*
>
> **— SUZANNE JONES**
> *Boulder Mayor*

The city has a well-stocked shelf from which to pull solutions, especially when it comes to reducing overall energy use. Tactics include implementing some of the nation's most aggressive building energy-efficiency standards, such as the Net Zero building code, the Energy Smart residential program, benchmarking and disclosure standards for commercial properties, and the nation's first and only efficiency code for rental units, called SmartRegs. The Boulder Energy Challenge provides opportunities for new and innovative climate solutions by tapping into the local climate and energy expertise from the University of Colorado and federal energy labs based in Colorado.

In March 2017, Boulder released its updated Climate Commitment, including an energy section that outlines five guiding principles:

1. Ensure affordable, reliable, clean, and secure energy
2. Prioritize a rapid transition from fossil fuels
3. Invest in the local economy
4. Design a marketplace for innovation
5. Ensure a just transition that factors in social equity considerations

The Just Transition Collaborative (JTC), formed in 2016, includes individuals and organizations committed to helping the city develop strategies to ensure an equitable and just transition to 100% renewable energy. Based on community dialogue and feedback around the community's climate action commitments, the JTC developed a set of equity and just transition goals and objectives to guide the city's efforts. The Just Transition Goals and the Climate Action Plan aim to improve the wellbeing, security, and shared prosperity of the entire community, as well as mitigate any unintended negative effects on the community—particularly on its most vulnerable segments.

The Just Transition Collaborative recommends four goals for the Energy Priority Area of the Climate Commitment:

- Build inclusive community leadership and policy engagement
- Promote equity in energy and resource costs, and ownership of green technologies
- Generate socially just economic and employment opportunities, and mitigate related losses
- Provide regional leadership to address equity in climate and energy

These objectives are intended to be measurable, adaptable to community input, and implemented sequentially based on community needs.

UTILITY OWNERSHIP WILL HELP CITY CHART COURSE

To procure clean energy sources, Boulder began the process of creating a locally owned and operated electric utility. Since 2010, Boulder voters have continued to fund its efforts to separate from investor-owned Xcel Energy, the current electricity provider. While Boulder continues to look for ways to partner with Xcel, municipalization appears to provide the clearest path to achieving Boulder's energy and climate goals.

Although a settlement with Xcel remains a possibility, Boulder reached a significant milestone in September 2017, when the Colorado Public Utilities Commission issued an order that provides for Boulder to move forward with municipalization and separate itself from the Xcel utility system. In November, Boulder voters will once again be asked to provide direction on municipalization.

Hanover, NH

100% RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY BY 2050

Ivy League college town first to approve 100% clean energy goal by community vote.

The small town of Hanover was the first municipality in New Hampshire to adopt a 100% clean energy goal. But, more importantly, it was the first in the country to have that goal voted on and approved by its residents—an exciting affirmation, given the critical role that private businesses and residents must play in reaching the goal.

POWERED BY THE PEOPLE

The Sustainable Hanover Committee first endorsed the effort in December 2016. The subsequent vote, which took place at the May 2017 Town Meeting, set a community-wide goal of transitioning to 100% renewable electricity by 2030, and to running heating and transportation on renewable energy by 2050.

Hanover is investing in renewable energy for all town-owned facilities—including solar panels on the roof of the police department, and potentially the Town Hall building, public schools, and the Howe Library. The town also invests $50,000 every year in energy-efficiency improvements, has installed

"I'm overjoyed that the Town Meeting voted unanimously to support a goal of 100% renewable energy. We look forward to working with the Sierra Club and Sustainable Hanover to achieve this goal."

— **JULIA GRIFFIN**
Hanover Town Manager

low-energy heat pumps and LED lighting, and actively encourages local businesses to transition to renewable energy sources.

- Population: 11,278
- Electric Utility: Eversource; Liberty; New Hampshire Electric Cooperative (NHEC)
- 100% clean energy commitment approved by popular vote at a town meeting

Hanover is perhaps best known as the home of Dartmouth College, and the institution's large presence in this small community makes it key to a successful 100% clean energy push. A recent report by the Sustainability Task Force, created by Dartmouth's president in 2016, recommended that the college provide 50% of campus energy from renewable sources by 2025 and 100% by 2050. Other ideas under discussion with the town include the potential construction of a solar farm, as well as switching from the current, steam-based heating system to a hot water-based system. The college will publish an annual Sustainability Action Report to track the progress of various campus-led efforts, including a push for undergraduate involvement.

Hanover also works closely with neighboring communities that hope to join the Ready for 100 movement, and partners on several initiatives designed to further progress toward their Ready for 100 goals. Initiatives include the development of a regional Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) entity, which will enable Hanover to team up with neighboring City of Lebanon to purchase electricity at a lower cost for both Hanover and Lebanon residents, thereby freeing up funds to invest in renewable energy initiatives, and allowing for the regional purchase of cleaner electricity. This regional effort would be the first municipal CCA established in New Hampshire. In addition, Hanover is amending its Zoning Ordinance to allow installation of large-scale solar farms, mirroring an action taken by the

City of Lebanon in March of 2017. Both actions are subject to approval at a Hanover Town Meeting in May 2018.

Recently, the Town of Hanover formally opposed the installation of a natural gas pipeline proposed by Liberty, citing the environmental effects of fracked natural gas, as well as the Town's decision not to connect any of its municipal facilities to natural gas. Dartmouth College has also formally stated that it will not connect to a natural gas pipeline, but will focus instead on sustainably harvested biomass and solar energy sources for its proposed campus-wide hot water heating system.

In 2018, Hanover hopes to hire a Sustainability Director to assist the community in implementing its 100% renewable energy goal.

Madison, WI

100% RENEWABLE ENERGY: ELECTRICITY, TRANSPORTATION, AND HEATING AND COOLING *(Target Dates to be Set by January 2018)*

Heavily coal-reliant state capital, home to University of Wisconsin, first city in the Badger State to embrace 100% renewable energy.

In March 2017, the Madison Common Council approved a commitment to 100% clean, renewable energy across all sectors of electricity, heating, and transportation. With that, it became the first city in Wisconsin—and the biggest in the Midwest—to make the community-wide clean energy pledge.

To back up the pledge, the city allocated $250,000 for staff and a consultant to develop a plan—with target dates, interim milestones, and budget projections—by January 2018, detailing how city operations can meet the 100% renewable energy goal. The resolution requires regular progress reports to the city council. The goal will be included in a revised sustainability plan for the city and managed by the Sustainable Madison Committee, a group of 18 residents appointed by the mayor.

Although this goal has widespread community support, it won't be easy. The journey toward 100% clean energy must be taken in tandem with Madison Gas and Electric (MGE), the primary utility company.

Madison currently gets 89% of its electricity from fossil fuel sources (including 64% from coal) and just 11% from renewable sources.

> *"The benefits of a transition to 100% clean energy are many. These goals will drive a clean energy economy that creates local jobs, provides affordable and sustainable electricity, and results in cleaner air and water."*
>
> **— CITY ALDER ZACH WOOD**
> *Madison City Alder*

MGE's own program, called Energy Framework 2030, states a goal of 30% renewable energy by 2030—far below the city's goal of 100% clean energy community-wide. MGE, which recently announced a proposed 66-megawatt, Saratoga wind farm in Iowa that could power 47,000 homes, has laid out plans to offer customers a "smart thermostat" program and is pursuing a site for a second Shared Solar program (to meet demand after the first one generated a waiting list). It is also working with Madison on sourcing additional electric vehicles for the city's fleet. However, the city's ambitious plan will require MGE to step up its own plans and listen to its customers' demand for more renewable power.

Madison, designated a Solar Community by the U.S. Department of Energy in 2007, received seed funding to operate the MadiSUN program, which includes group purchase discounts and financing options for community rooftop solar. With additional grant funding from the SunShot Initiative Rooftop Challenge, the city expanded its solar financing options and added the Solar Energy Loan program, in partnership with a local credit union.
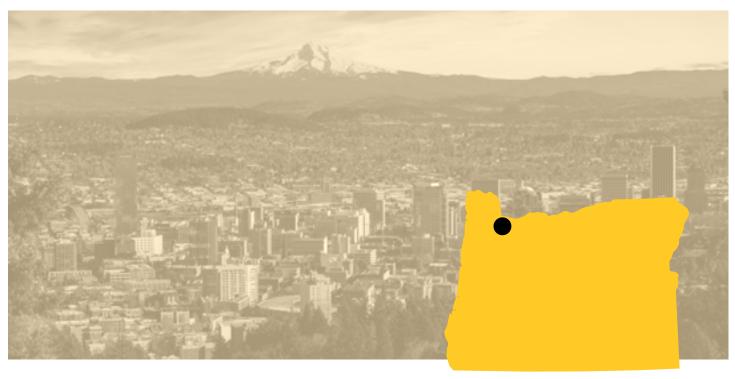
On the heating energy front, the city expects to begin with increasing the energy efficiency of buildings. For transportation, it is considering moving to an electric vehicle fleet that would use sun- or wind-generated power.

Madison's flagship, the University of Wisconsin, is home to the Wisconsin Energy Institute and several student groups, including UW Madison Sierra Student Coalition, UW Madison 350, and Climate Reality Project Campus Corps, that are pushing the school to mirror their city's ambitious commitment.

City Stats

- Population: 252,551

- Electric Utility: Madison Gas and Electric (investor-owned utility)

- Pledged to 100% clean energy across all sectors, including electricity, heating, and transportation

- State capital and first city in Wisconsin to commit to 100% renewable energy

Portland, OR (Multnomah County)

100% RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY BY 2035, ALL ENERGY BY 2050

Ambitious commitments by both City and County reaffirm region's leadership and shine a spotlight on environmental justice.

While drying out from the state's wettest winter on record (2016), which followed the warmest year on record (2015), the Portland City Council and Multnomah County Commission certainly had climate disruption on their minds when they voted to adopt the goal of 100% renewable energy for the entire community by 2050. Voting took place within hours of President Trump's withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Climate Accord, putting a fine point on the imperative of local communities to act on climate and clean energy solutions.

BUILDING ON A LEGACY OF CLIMATE LEADERSHIP

Portland has proposed a staged approach, through which it will phase out coal by 2032 and fracked gas by 2035 to meet 100% renewable electricity generation that same year. The city would fold in transportation, heating, and other energy uses by 2050. Noting that government can only get so far unilaterally, they made the clean energy goals community-wide: success will hinge upon the active participation of businesses and residents.

> *"This is a pledge to our children's future. 100% renewables means a future with cleaner air, a stable climate, and more jobs and economic opportunity."*
>
> — **DEBORAH KAFOURY**
> *Multnomah County Chair*

> *"In order to protect our environment and our communities from the threat posed by the Trump administration's climate policies, local and state jurisdictions must step forward to make up the difference when crafting environmental policy. I am proud of the work we have done engaging stakeholders and the public on this important commitment. We must continue to lead the way."*
>
> — **JESSICA VEGA PEDERSON**
> *Multnomah County Commissioner*

City Stats

- Population (City and County): 790,294
- Electric Utilities: Portland General Electric (PGE), Pacific Power (PacifiCorp), and NW Natural (gas utility)
- Oregon has a renewable portfolio standard requiring electric utility companies to offer 50% renewable energy by 2040
- First city in the Pacific Northwest to pledge to 100% renewable energy

The city's resolution also emphasizes strategies to advance equity and social justice, such as job training, encouraging minority- and women-owned businesses, rate protections, and lower transit fares. At the request of community-based organizations, the initial vote was delayed to allow more time for community input on critical protections for low-income people and people of color. Portland has promised to continue with an inclusive process that promotes equitable sharing in the economic, social, and environmental benefits of a clean energy economy for all communities.

Portland plans to lead by example, as it has since 1993 when it became the first city in the country to adopt a carbon-reduction strategy. City operations are now powered by 100% clean power, as part of the Sustainable City Government 2030

Environmental Performance Objectives. Its Climate Action Plan, which is already in place, includes an aggressive goal of 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050.

Initiatives that are already underway (or under consideration) to meet the 100% clean energy goal include: renovated and new LEED Gold-certified city buildings and county courthouses; solar arrays at police and fire stations; energy efficiency; demand control; electric vehicle fleets, including buses; and expanded public transit options. These will likely prove to be smart investments, given the region's track record of economic growth and job creation in the clean-tech sector while implementing successful emissions-reduction measures.

Reforming the utility supply is ultimately the key to Portland and Multnomah County's success. PGE is expected to close its coal-fired plant in Boardman by 2020 and is considering a range of replacement options. The utility says that by adding proposed renewable sources to the current mix of wind, solar, and hydroelectric power, it could achieve 50% carbon-free energy by 2020. It seems PGE is paying attention to Portland and Multnomah County's commitment: in May 2017, PGE canceled plans to build a new, gas-fired power plant, and noted the city and county's commitment to clean energy in the final filing of their 2017 Integrated Resource Plan.

> *"Getting our community to 100% renewable energy is a big goal. And while it is absolutely ambitious, it is a goal that we share with Nike, Hewlett Packard, Microsoft, Google, GM, Coca Cola, Johnson & Johnson, and Walmart. We have a responsibility to lead this effort in Oregon.''*
>
> — **MAYOR TED WHEELER**
> *Portland Mayor*

Pueblo, CO

100% RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY BY 2035

With a rigid, investor-owned utility that is heavily invested in fracked gas driving up their energy bills, this working-class community wants renewable energy to stabilize costs and service.

Once known as the "Pittsburgh of the West," the city of Pueblo, set on Colorado's Front Range, has lost thousands of steel jobs in recent decades. This economically depressed community also contends with some of the highest electricity rates in the state, with dire consequences for residents.

Rates have gone up since the utility purchased a series of new, gas-fired power plants to maximize their return on investment at the expense of ratepayers. Black Hills Energy disconnects approximately 7,000 utility accounts every year (out of 94,000 total accounts in Pueblo) for failure to pay. Many residents have ended up in homeless shelters as a direct result of having their electricity shut off. Currently, the utility is proposing to nearly double the energy charge and increase the customer charge for solar customers, in order to dampen demand for rooftop solar.

Frustrated by sky-high energy bills and electricity shutoffs, Pueblo residents lobbied the city council

to abandon gas and switch to more affordable, renewable energy. The Sierra Club's Sangre de Cristo Group teamed up with local groups, including Pueblo's Energy Future, Faith Leaders in Action, and

> *"No one should have to choose between feeding their family or keeping the lights on, and our commitment to 100% clean energy will provide important relief to families throughout Pueblo."*
>
> **— LARRY ATENCIO**
> *Pueblo City Councilman*

neighborhood associations, to promote renewable energy transition for local residents to the city council.

Vestas, a Denmark-based wind turbine maker, operates the largest wind-tower manufacturing plant in the world in Pueblo, offering the city a possible new identity as a renewable energy manufacturing hub. Given the now-competitive costs of solar and wind—there are several utility-scale wind farms in the region—Pueblo ratepayers would save money with the switch. Renewable energy would also protect this vulnerable community from volatile natural gas prices.

CHARTING A COURSE TO A MORE AFFORDABLE COMMUNITY

Since February 2017, the Sierra Club has been actively engaged in the "accountability phase" of Pueblo's 100% clean energy goal. The Sangre de Cristo Group successfully lobbied to establish a County Energy Office, which is now building community programs for energy efficiency and renewable energy. The team is working with many partners to ensure that an upcoming, 2-megawatt community solar facility is largely dedicated to low-income subscribers. On September 25, 2017, the Pueblo City Council approved a resolution to

pursue termination of its franchise agreement with Black Hills Energy and explore the formation of a municipal utility and other opportunities.

Much work remains to be done, but the 100% renewable energy commitment has inspired this working class community to take back their power and craft their own vision for a sustainable future.

Salt Lake City, UT (Park City, Moab)

100% RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY BY 2032

Park City and Moab join Salt Lake City in clean energy push, underscoring the vital role of mountain, outdoor, and tourism-dependent communities.

Air quality, public health, energy security, and green jobs are just some of the benefits outlined in Salt Lake City's joint resolution, proposed by Mayor Jackie Biskupski and adopted by the City Council in November 2016, which calls for the city to get 100% of its community energy supply from renewable sources by 2032 (with 50% renewable energy for municipal operations by 2020), and an 80% reduction in community greenhouse gas emissions by 2040.

Air quality, public health, energy security, and green jobs are just some of the benefits outlined in Salt Lake City's joint resolution, proposed by Mayor Jackie Biskupski and adopted by the City Council in November 2016, which calls for the city to get 100% of its community energy supply from renewable

sources by 2032 (with 50% renewable energy for municipal operations by 2020), and an 80% reduction in community greenhouse gas emissions by 2040.

Within months, the city had also released its Climate Positive Plan, outlining the programs that will help guide those clean energy and climate protection efforts.

Even before the resolution passed, the mayor and the CEO of Rocky Mountain Power, the city's electricity provider, had signed a Joint Clean Energy Cooperation Statement that established a framework

> *"Park City's commitment for 100% renewable electricity is driven by our community."*
>
> — JACK THOMAS
> *Park City Mayor*

City Stats

- Population (Salt Lake City): 193,744
- Electric Utility: Rocky Mountain Power (PacifiCorp)
- In 2016, 69% of the electricity generated in Utah came from coal

for the city and utility to work together to achieve Salt Lake's goal of 100% clean electricity by 2032. A collaborative Clean Energy Implementation Plan followed, released in March 2017. These plans focus on: energy efficiency, renewable energy, electric vehicles, and progressive grid. Salt Lake City is also designing a program to help lower-income residents make energy-efficient upgrades.

The city laid the groundwork for success in recent years with a long list of energy efficiency and renewable energy accomplishments: converting traffic lights to LED; requiring that all new city buildings and major renovations be LEED Gold or higher and Net Zero energy; and renewable energy installations at 16 local government sites.

THE CLIMATE DRIVES TOURISM; TOURISM DRIVES THE ECONOMY

Although Salt Lake was the first Utah community to make a 100% renewable energy commitment, Moab and Park City have now joined the pledge (both cities by 2032, with Park City specifying city operations by 2022 and the whole community by 2032). At 5,242 and 8,229 residents respectively, Moab and Park City are small towns, but, along with the capital, they anchor the state's robust tourism economy, which supports about one out of every 10 jobs. As such, they have a lot to lose with climate disruption effects that could drive up temperatures and reduce snowfall.

For Park City, which joined I AM PRO SNOW, a campaign for mountain communities led by the Climate Reality Project, it's all about the effects that climate change and warmer temperatures will have on the city's thriving winter sports scene. As the saying in Park City goes, "Without snow, we cannot grow." But within the next 100 years, climate change could render Park City, and at least nine other cities that have hosted the Olympic Winter Games in the past, too warm to host again. Even before making an official commitment to renewable energy, the city had installed more than 1,200 solar panels on city facilities, and added zero-emission, all-electric buses to its fleet.

Moab, an outdoor tourism mecca and gateway to Arches and Canyonlands national parks, is plagued by air pollution from two nearby coal plants. The city council announced its 100% renewable energy resolution alongside a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new solar array atop City Hall. The city also hired a Sustainability Director to guide its implementation process, starting with an analysis of power usage.

South Lake Tahoe, CA

100% RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY BY 2032

Largest city in Sierra Nevada mountain range takes steps to protect "National Treasure."

Nestled in California's Sierra Nevada mountains, among world-class resorts and throngs of outdoor enthusiasts, the city of South Lake Tahoe put its name on more than just picturesque vacation postcards in April 2017. The city made headlines when it adopted a goal to transition to 100% renewable energy by 2032, with an interim goal of 50% for municipal operations by 2025, and 80% greenhouse reduction goal by 2049.

Looking around town at the piercing blue lake and snow-capped peaks, it's no surprise that the effort won the support of the League to Save Lake Tahoe, South Tahoe Chamber, Lake Tahoe South Shore Chamber of Commerce, and the Sierra Business Council. The region's tourism economy will hinge on the severity of future climate disruption effects, including drought conditions affecting Lake Tahoe and the Truckee River, as well as the snow levels for winter sports.

The successful campaign was led by a grassroots coalition, called the South Lake Tahoe 100% Renewable Committee, which included the Sierra

Nevada Alliance, Climate Reality Project's I AM PRO SNOW, the Tahoe Climate Action Network, Climate Parents, and community members. More than 1,000 people signed a petition supporting clean energy even before the city council voted.

> *"The passion to protect our natural resources made this commitment possible, and reflects the city's vision statement to 'reflect the National Treasure in which we live.'"*
>
> **— AUSTIN SASS**
> *South Lake Tahoe Mayor*

"The intent is to obtain 100%, Sierra-wide renewable electricity by 2030 and renewable energy by 2050. This also includes a hard look at greenhouse emissions via transportation, and how all of this impacts disadvantaged communities. Collectively, we will make a real impact."

— **JENNY HATCH**
Sierra Nevada Alliance Executive Director

The groundswell of support from the community will be critical as the city now works to figure out implementation strategies, a cost analysis, and funding sources, tasks that will be driven by the volunteer Sustainability Committee, city staff, and the South Lake Tahoe 100% Renewable Committee.

Since the South Lake Tahoe victory, the Sierra Nevada Alliance has been working to replicate this initiative in communities across the region. Nevada City recently committed to 100% renewable energy, and Truckee has scheduled a vote on a 100% resolution on November 28. The Alliance is also organizing community 100% renewable energy coalitions in North Lake Tahoe and Mammoth.

To learn more about this project, please visit *www.sierranevadaalliance.org*

LEVERAGE WITH LIBERTY

Liberty Utilities supplies South Lake Tahoe's electricity, but when that contract expires in 2018, the city could negotiate to procure more renewable energy sources.

Liberty removed coal from its power portfolio in 2015 and is currently 36% renewable—achieved in part with a new, 50-megawatt solar farm in Nevada. It is on track to be 30% clean by 2020; at minimum, it will have to meet the state-mandated target of 33% by 2020 and 50% by 2030.

The utility has taken steps to work proactively with South Lake Tahoe as a partner in meeting its renewable energy goals.

St. Petersburg, FL

Gulf Coast city dedicates part of BP oil spill settlement funds to pursue renewable energy goal.

St. Petersburg averages 361 sunny days per year and holds the Guinness World Record for consecutive days of sunshine (768) in any U.S. city. Yet, the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010 cast a dark shadow across it, as it did over a huge swath of other Gulf Coast communities.

A silver—or perhaps green—lining became visible in November 2016, when the city council voted unanimously to dedicate $250,000 from the BP oil spill settlement to developing an Integrated Sustainability Action Plan (ISAP), which will chart a course for the city to transition to 100% renewable energy, as part of its climate action measures. The ISAP will also prioritize sustainability across several goal areas, including equity and empowerment, and integrate existing and future resiliency planning and project ideas. The city allocated another $300,000 of the BP settlement to partnering with the county on a regional vulnerability assessment, which will be integrated across resiliency planning. And, an additional $250,000 was allocated to implementing energy audits and retrofitting projects on the ground while planning efforts move forward.

THE SUNSHINE CITY LEADS THE WAY FOR THE SUNSHINE STATE

St. Petersburg calls itself "The Sunshine City," and it is that abundance of renewable energy that drives its thriving tourism economy—and could do the same for the city's clean energy aspirations.

The city has a strong partner in its hometown University of South Florida St. Petersburg (USF SP), which recently released a Climate Action Plan to reduce emissions 50% by 2035, with an eye to achieving full carbon neutrality by 2050, and an interim goal of installing 500 kilowatts of renewable energy production by 2020. In December 2016, Mayor Rick Kriseman—who previously signed an executive order establishing the city's net-zero energy goal—stood with the USF SP chancellor to officially kick off the city's 100% renewable energy

> "Working towards 100% clean energy and zero waste will help ensure that St. Pete remains a city of opportunity, where the sun shines on all who come to live, work, and play."
>
> — **RICK KRISEMAN**
> *St. Petersburg Mayor*

City Stats

- Population: 260,999
- Electric Utility: Duke Energy Florida (Progress Energy, Inc.)
- First city in Florida to commit to 100% clean energy

goal and ISAP. In 2008, the Florida Green Building Coalition recognized St. Pete as the first "Green City" in the state, and the city has various policies to encourage sustainable design, construction, and operation of new and renovated buildings.

Despite the "Sunshine State" moniker, Florida has only begun to tap its vast potential for renewable energy production. Political headwinds at the state level have upped the ante for local leadership initiatives like St. Pete's 100% renewable energy goal—the first of its kind in the state. The city council vote came just days after Floridians defeated a utility-backed state ballot amendment in the 2016 general election, one which the Sierra Club and other environmental groups say would have put more restrictions on solar power in the state.

MOVING FORWARD

In 2017, the city is moving forward with its Integrated Sustainability Action Plan (ISAP), with support from the Community Redevelopment Advisory Board, and

a commitment to extensive community stakeholder input—including focused efforts on lower- and middle- income areas—with new outreach methods and exercises. The city council also approved additional allocations of the BP oil spill settlement to expand the Solar United Neighbors of Florida (formerly the FL SunSolar co-op), and create a solar financing loan program to help low-income residents invest in energy efficiency measures and rooftop solar.

Elsewhere in the state, both Sarasota and Orlando city councils have quickly followed St. Petersburg's lead by establishing goals for community-wide transition to 100% renewable energy, and at least 25 Florida mayors have joined the Sierra Club's Mayors for 100% Clean Energy, pledging support for full transition to renewable energy.

100% Renewable Electricity City Commitments

Community	State	Date of Commitment	Target Year	Population
Aspen	CO	May 2007	Achieved in 2015	6,871
San Jose	CA	October 5, 2007	2022	1,025,350
Kodiak Island	AK	2007	Achieved 99.5% in 2012	13,889
Rock Port	MO	April 18, 2008	Achieved in 2008	1,227
Greensburg	KS	May 19, 2008	Achieved in 2013	771
San Francisco	CA	December 7, 2010	2030	870,887
Burlington	VT	July 26, 2012	Achieved in 2014	42,260
Palo Alto	CA	March 4, 2013	2017	67,024
Taos	NM	October 22, 2013	2030	5,763
Village of Questa	NM	January 7, 2014	2030	1,754
Village of Eagle Nest	NM	January 28, 2014	2030	257
Village of Taos Ski Valley	NM	February 4, 2014	2030	69
Town of Red River	NM	March 21, 2014	2030	477
Village of Angel Fire	NM	April 22, 2014	2030	1,113
East Hampton	NY	May 20, 2014	2030	1,114
Georgetown	TX	February 28, 2015	2018	67,140
San Diego	CA	December 15, 2015	2035	1,406,630
Del Mar	CA	June 6, 2016	2035	4,365
Salt Lake City	UT	July 12, 2016	2032	193,744
Park City	UT	October 11, 2016	2032	8,299
St. Petersburg	FL	November 21, 2016	2030	260,999
Boulder	CO	December 6, 2016	2030	108,090
Pueblo	CO	February 13, 2017	2035	110,291
Moab	UT	February 14, 2017	2032	5,242
Abita Springs	LA	March 21, 2017	2030	2,529

100% Renewable Electricity City Commitments

Community	State	Date of Commitment	Target Year	Population
Madison	WI	March 21, 2017	TBD	252,551
South Lake Tahoe	CA	April 18, 2017	2032	21,717
Cambridge	MA	April 24, 2017	2035	110,651
Atlanta	GA	May 1, 2017	2035	472,522
Southampton	NY	May 9, 2017	2025	3,280
Hanover	NH	May 9, 2017	2030	11,278
Portland	OR	June 1, 2017	2035	639,863
Santa Barbara	CA	June 6, 2017	2030	91,930
Monterey	CA	June 6, 2017	2040	28,454
Sarasota	FL	June 19, 2017	2040	56,610
Columbia	SC	June 20, 2017	2036	134,309
Edmonds	WA	June 27, 2017	Municipal by 2019; community-wide by 2025	41,840
Menlo Park	CA	July 18, 2017	Municipal already achieved; community-wide by 2030	33,888
Solana Beach	CA	July 12, 2017	2035	13,449
Orlando	FL	August 8, 2017	2050	277,173
Nevada City	CA	August 9, 2017	2032	3,145
Nederland	CO	August 15, 2017	2030	1,534
Hillsborough	NC	September 11, 2017	2050	5,907
Phoenixville	PA	September 12, 2017	2035	16,885
West Chester	PA	September 20, 2017	2035	19,928
Chula Vista	CA	September 26, 2017	50% by 2020; 100% by 2035	267,172
St. Louis	MO	October 27, 2017	2035	311,404
Amherst	MA	November 9, 2017	N/A	37,611
Breckenridge	CO	November 14, 2017	2035	4,896
Truckee	CA	November 28, 2017	2030	16,391

County-wide 100% Renewable Electricity Commitments

Community	State	Date of Commitment	Target Year	Population
County of Taos	NM	October 15, 2013	2030	32,907
Multnomah County	OR	June 1, 2017	By 2035	790,294
Orange County	NC	September 5, 2017	2050	141,354
Summit County	UT	October 4, 2017	2032	39,633

Statewide 100% Renewable Electricity Commitments

Community	State	Date of Commitment	Target Year	Population
Hawaii	HI	June 8, 2015	2045	1,429,000

Community-wide 100% Renewable Transportation and/or Heating and Cooling Commitments

Community	State	Target Year for 100% Renewable Heating/Cooling	Target Year for 100% Renewable Heating/Cooling
Multnomah County	OR	2050	2050
Orange County	NC	2050	2050
East Hampton	NY	2030	2030
Del Mar	CA	Carbon neutral by 2035	Carbon neutral by 2035
Cambridge	MA	2035	2035
Hanover	NH	2050	2050
Portland	OR	2050	2050
Nevada City	CA	2050	2050
Phoenixville	PA	2050	2050
West Chester	PA	2050	2050

United States Population:
Data taken from United States Census Bureau 2016 estimates.

United States Electricity Consumption:
Electricity consumption estimates (2013) for each city taken from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) State and Local Energy Data **(SLED)** tool and compared to United States total retail sales, as reported by the United States Energy Information Administration (EIA).

Potential New Renewable Energy Capacity (Megawatts, if Wind Energy):
New renewable energy capacity was calculated using state-specific wind energy capacity factors and potential new renewable energy generation estimates. This calculation was performed for wind energy, purely for illustrative purposes. The city commitments would lead to a mixture of new wind and solar capacity. Existing wind and solar electricity generation as well as legislated renewable portfolio standards were taken into account when estimating potential new renewable energy generated by cities committing to move to 100% renewable energy.

Potential Carbon Dioxide Emissions Reduction by 2030 (Million Metric Tons):
The emissions reduction potential of this additional renewable energy generation was estimated using state-specific emissions factors for non-zero marginal cost electricity, derived from EIA electric power sector carbon dioxide emissions **(2014 reported and 2016 estimated)** and net generation datasets.

Mayors for 100% Clean Energy:
United States mayors who have pledged their support for a community-wide transition to 100% renewable energy by signing onto the **Mayors for 100% Clean Energy endorsement.**

Committed to 100% Clean Energy:
The Ready For 100 Campaign recognizes community commitments as places where a city's leadership has established a clear goal to transition to the entire community to 100% clean, renewable energy. This commitment can be made through a stand-alone resolution or proclamation or integrated into a community's Climate Action Plan or Energy Action Plan.

Powered by 100% Renewable Energy:
A community is powered with 100% renewable energy when the amount of energy generated from renewable energy sources in the community (or brought into it) equals or exceeds 100% of the annual energy consumed within the community.

Note: There are cities that have both community commitments and mayoral endorsements. The statistics for population, electricity consumption, carbon dioxide emissions reductions, and potential new renewable energy capacity are calculated in such a way that there is no double counting when the two categories are added together.

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