

# READY FOR 100

Ready For 100 Percent Clean and Renewable Energy!



The Sierra Club's #ReadyFor100 campaign advocates for an affordable and equitable energy system across the United States powered by 100% clean, renewable energy like wind and solar.

The time for 100% clean, renewable energy 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 no longer need to rely on fossil fuels; we have cleaner and more affordable solutions. It's time to put power back in the hands of our communities and chart the course away from fossil fuels to 100% clean, renewable energy. **We are #ReadyFor100.**

## WHY WE NEED 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY

The oil, coal, and fracked gas industries continue to pollute the air we breathe and water we drink, putting the health of every individual and family across the country at risk. Four out of every ten people in the United States live in an area with unhealthy levels of air pollution.<sup>1</sup> One out of every four receives water from a contaminated or untested source.<sup>2</sup> These numbers are even worse for communities of color and low-income communities, which are consistently affected most by harmful fossil fuel pollution.

Many families across the United States are unfairly locked into costly, dirty fossil fuel electricity. Low-income households are frequently forced to spend a higher amount of their incomes on energy bills or face having their lights and heat shut off. Every year, thousands of families are left in the dark during sweltering heat waves and freezing cold spells.<sup>3</sup>

## THE 100% CLEAN ENERGY OPPORTUNITY

Powering our communities with 100% clean and renewable energy will increase access to affordable electricity like

solar, create good-paying jobs, and help forge a more resilient national economy. Transitioning away from dirty fuels to clean and renewable energy will reduce our reliance on polluting sources of energy that put public health and our planet at risk.

- Since 2009, the price of solar has dropped 85%, and the price of wind power is down 66%, resulting in more energy savings for people across the United States.<sup>4</sup>
- Solar power is cheaper than the current cost of utility-provided electricity in 42 of our nation's 50 biggest cities and in nearly half of all states.<sup>5</sup>
- 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.<sup>6</sup>
- Local investment in clean energy projects soared to total \$59 billion nationwide in 2016.<sup>7</sup>
- The switch to wind and solar has already prevented 12,700 premature deaths from fossil fuel pollution in the United States this past decade.<sup>8</sup>

Are you committed to transitioning your city, municipality, or state to 100 percent clean, renewable energy? Show that you are **#ReadyFor100** by joining or starting a local campaign, signing a petition, or contacting your local decision-makers. For more information about how to get involved in the movement, go to [ReadyFor100.org!](https://ReadyFor100.org)

As we transition towards 100% clean energy, we need to ensure that the benefits of the new clean energy economy are equitably shared. This means that the jobs and opportunities provide family-sustaining 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, dozens of places in the United States have already committed to transition to 100% clean and renewable energy. This list represents millions of people and includes big cities like San Diego and Atlanta as well as small towns like Abita Springs, Louisiana and Hanover, New Hampshire.

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. A transition to 100% renewable energy has become a leading cross-sector strategy for businesses and communities seeking to cut costs and pollution, boost the economy, or pursue ambitious climate action.

- Several communities, including Georgetown, Texas and Aspen, Colorado, are already powered entirely by wind, solar, and other sources of clean and renewable energy.
- Major corporations are recognizing that clean energy is not just the right thing to do—it's also good business. Apple, IKEA, Starbucks, and General Motors are leading a move toward 100% clean energy.
- Entire countries are going all-in on clean energy: Denmark and Scotland have both announced bold 100% clean and renewable plans.
- The United States Conference of Mayors, a group whose combined cities represent 42% of all U.S. electricity use, passed a resolution supporting 100% renewable energy in cities nationwide.
- Even some utilities are aiming for 100% clean energy. MidAmerican, one of the nation's largest utility



Want to see the cities and communities that are already committed to achieving 100 percent renewable energy? Check out our up-to-date map at: [Readyfor100.org](https://Readyfor100.org)

companies, is investing billions to install enough wind turbines in Iowa for an entirely renewable portfolio.<sup>9</sup>

Each of these victories is a result of local residents and community leaders advocating for clean and renewable energy. Just as we switched from horses to cars, telegrams to cell phones, and typewriters to computers we must now commit to switching from dirty fuels to clean energy.

## HOW YOU CAN TAKE ACTION

Voices all across the country are declaring that we are #ReadyFor100. With more than three 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 [Natural Resources Defense Council](#)

3 [NAACP](#)

4 [CleanTechnica](#)

5 [Department of Energy](#)

6 [Department of Energy](#)

7 [Business Council for Sustainable Energy](#)

8 [Nature](#)

9 [Des Moines Register](#)

Sierra Club National  
2101 Webster Street, Suite 1300  
Oakland, CA 94612  
(415) 977-5500

Sierra Club Legislative  
50 F Street, NW, Eighth Floor  
Washington, DC 20001  
(202) 547-1141

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