

## LOUISVILLE PATH TO 100% CLEAN RENEWABLE ENERGY

Metro Council set goals in the February 2020 Resolution. Now how to achieve them?

### The goals:

- 100% clean renewable *electricity* for Metro government operations by 2030
- 100% clean *energy* for Metro government operations by 2035
- 100% clean *energy community-wide* by 2040

**The science:** Earth's climate is rapidly warming due to the increase of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the air which is caused primarily by humans burning fossil fuels. The 2018 report of the United Nations IPCC<sup>1</sup> concluded that we must eliminate all fossil fuel use by 2050.

**The problem:** (1) Planetary warming at current rates threatens the survival of *Homo sapiens* and all other species. Efforts to reduce this threat have so far been inadequate. In addition to releasing CO<sub>2</sub>, burning fossil fuels also releases toxic emissions. (2) Of all fossil fuels, the burning of *coal* produces by far the most CO<sub>2</sub>. It is also the most expensive way to generate electricity, and the deadliest. We estimate LG&E customers now pay at least \$4 million/year *extra* for coal-fired generation, not counting costs of health impacts and coming climate disasters.

**Costs of inaction:** More sea level rise; more frequent and severe flooding, storms, drought, and heat; more air pollution with resultant negative health outcomes; more environmental *injustice*.

**Benefits of action:** Hundreds of well-paying jobs created; disasters avoided; a livable world preserved.

**Metro efforts to date:** In 2016, the mayor signed the U.N.-sponsored Global Covenant of Mayors, committing the city to take a series of steps to combat climate change. Since 2017, the city has created a greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory, GHG emissions reduction target, GHG emissions reduction plan, resilience plan...and has hired an energy manager as of February 2021!

**Metro next steps:** Contract for an energy audit; work to decrease fossil fuel use by improving efficiency; and begin financial work to build Metro renewable energy generation.

**100% REAL<sup>2</sup> efforts and next steps:** (1) In August 2020, created a planning proposal entitled "Louisville's Energy Future" (see info tab). (2) Now working to create a climate stakeholder advisory council, a solar demonstration project, and a Green Bank. (3) Work with Metro. (4) Call for closing LG&E's huge Mill Creek coal plant as utility-scale renewable energy becomes available.

**Citizen action:** (1) Urge your Metro Councilperson (502-574-1100) to advocate for specific steps to achieve 100% renewable energy in the approved timeline; (2) reduce your own carbon footprint any way you can ([louisvillecan.org](http://louisvillecan.org)); (3) write letters to the editor; (4) contact 100% REAL, [bdrewf@yahoo.com](mailto:bdrewf@yahoo.com).

<sup>1</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change -- This report was authored by 91 scientists after reviewing 6,000 papers, with input and review by 796 experts and 65 governments around the world.

<sup>2</sup> *100% Renewable Energy Alliance of Louisville (REAL)* is a group of citizens who drafted and lobbied for the 100% Clean Energy Resolution passed by Metro Council.