

Boise is Ready for 100 Percent Clean, Renewable Energy



READY FOR
100%

A GROWING MOVEMENT FOR 100 PERCENT CLEAN, RENEWABLE ENERGY

Five U.S. cities are currently powered by 100 percent clean energy: Aspen (CO), Burlington (VT), Greensburg (KS), Kodiak Island (AK), and Rock Port (MO).³

More than 100 cities across the globe get 70 percent or more of their electricity from renewable resources.⁴

There are over 125 major corporations that have made the commitment to go 100 percent renewable, including HP Inc., Clif Bar, Google, and many major banks among others.⁵

The U.S. Conference of Mayors passed a series of resolutions at their 2017 conference that included a pledge to support cities' adoption of 100 percent renewable energy by 2035.⁶ The Conference represents more than 1,400 cities across the country that account for 42 percent of all energy usage in the U.S.

Eighty-three percent of respondents to a national online survey of American adults conducted by Global Strategy Group in August 2015 supported a goal of 100% clean and renewable energy for the United States.

Scientific studies from Stanford conclude that a transition to a 100 clean energy economy by 2050 is technically feasible and would save the average American family over \$200 a year in energy costs and \$1,500 a year in healthcare costs.⁷

The Ready for 100 campaign is mobilizing support in Boise for a 100% clean, renewable energy future. As the City of Boise prepares to set a clean energy goal in 2018 for citywide electricity, we are raising community voices to advance local climate solutions. **We are #Readyfor100 percent clean, renewable energy for all.**

READY FOR 100 IN BOISE

Ready for 100 is a national Sierra Club campaign launched in January 2016 to encourage cities in the U.S. to commit to 100% clean, renewable energy. To date, more than 50 U.S. cities have committed to 100% renewable energy for their communities and more than 190 mayors have made 100% clean energy endorsements.

Here in Idaho, the Ready for 100 campaign is asking Boise city leaders to set a vision for 100% clean, renewable energy. A transition to renewable energy will grow our local economy, protect the health of our community members, ensure energy affordability, and create a positive legacy on climate leadership for future generations.

Boise residents, businesses and local government all get electricity from Idaho Power. In 2016 Idaho Power's energy mix was comprised of 43 percent fossil fuels (coal, diesel, gas, and market purchases).¹ These fuel sources represent a significant risk for our climate, the future of stable energy prices, and the health of our community.

The City of Boise recognizes the risk for our climate and energy rates. In addition, they value the benefits that a transition to clean energy would bring to our local economy and community members. In 2017 the City Council Members prioritized work on clean energy by funding a **Renewable Energy Strategy** recognizing that proactive clean energy planning was the next obvious challenge to achieving Boise's sustainability vision.²

The goal of the Renewable Energy Strategy is to define a vision for the Boise's energy future, including the setting of specific clean energy goals based on their technical, financial and regulatory feasibility. Staff at the City of Boise will work on the Renewable Energy Strategy through the spring with plans of setting a final community clean energy goal by the end of summer 2018.

Boise is Ready for 100% Clean Energy

The Idaho Chapter Sierra Club and our community partners are supportive of the ambitious and innovative scope of energy work the City of Boise is pursuing. We believe their approach to defining reachable goals paired with implementation schedules is critical to making progress.

Throughout the process, city leaders will continue to engage community stakeholders for feedback and help to guide the work. This is your chance to speak up and help Boise shape the future of energy in Idaho!

As similar cities around the country have pursued clean, renewable energy goal setting, we know that 100% clean energy has become the standard. This ambitious goal helps to guide markets, policy decisions, drive innovation in program development, and bring the benefits of a clean energy transition to their communities. Join us in thanking our city leaders for their work and asking them to join other cities around the U.S. by including a 100% clean energy goal for Boise's future.

ASK CITY LEADERS FOR 100% CLEAN ENERGY:

[HTTP://SC.ORG/READYFOR100-BOISE](http://sc.org/readyfor100-boise)



THE CASE FOR 100 PERCENT CLEAN ENERGY

- **Keeping clean energy dollars local would benefit our economy.** Boise residents, businesses, and local government spend \$564 million on fossil fuels every year (\$181M oil, \$325M natural gas, \$58M coal).⁸ A commitment to transition to clean energy would keep hundreds of millions of dollars in our economy, create local jobs and benefit every member of our community. An NREL study shows that 38% of energy demand in Boise can be met with solar on existing rooftops - the opportunity for investment is here.⁹
- **Boise needs to set aggressive goals to remain competitive with similar cities.** More than 50 cities in the U.S. have committed to transition their communities to 100% clean, renewable energy. Ambitious commitments by these cities, like Salt Lake City and Denver, have set the benchmark for sustainable city planning.
- **Clean energy is affordable now and in the future.** The primary driver of renewable energy around the country are economic considerations. Renewable prices have plummeted over the last decade (wind by 67% and solar by 86%) and storage is increasingly affordable with expectations of future price drops (36% over next five years).¹⁰ These fuel free resources are cheaper than ever before a provide stability in energy pricing over the longterm.
- **Boise's community wants an energy future that does not contribute to the climate crisis.** The Idaho Chapter Sierra Club has been talking with the community for the last two years and the consensus is clear, Boise residents want to move away from fossil fuels. To ensure the livability of our community well in the future, Boise must pursue both climate adaptation strategies and a future without greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Companies increasingly require clean energy access to do business.** Boise has seen incredible economic development over the last decade. Significant progress on clean energy access will be necessary to continue attracting the type of companies we want to see in our city. Due to lagging state support for renewables, the Boise will need to drive clean energy investments to lure companies to our community.

Boise can lead in Idaho by joining cities around the U.S. that have committed to a 100% clean future. **To learn more about the Ready for 100 campaign or get involved, contact us at idaho.chapter@sierraclub.org.**

Resources

1. <https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/sce-authors/u7661/Snapshot-39931%20%284%29.pdf?scv=1520371835952>
2. <https://www.idahopower.com/pdfs/AboutUs/PlanningForFuture/irp/2015/2015IRP.pdf>
3. <https://www.sierraclub.org/ready-for-100/commitments>
4. <https://www.cdp.net/en/cities/world-renewable-energy-cities>
5. <http://there100.org/companies>
6. http://legacy.usmayors.org/resolutions/85th_Conference/proposedcommittee.asp?committee=Energy
7. <http://web.stanford.edu/group/efmh/jacobson/Articles/I/USStatesWWS.pdf>
8. Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance
9. <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy16osti/65586.pdf>
10. <https://www.lazard.com/perspective/levelized-cost-of-energy-2017/>
<https://www.lazard.com/perspective/levelized-cost-of-storage-2017/>

HOW BOISE CAN LEAD IDAHO ON CLEAN, RENEWABLE ENERGY

Boise is actively planning our energy future. Right now city staff are actively working on a vision for the future of energy in Boise with internal and external stakeholders. The *Renewable Energy Strategy* is the vehicle Boise will use to redefine the future of our energy by setting ambitious clean energy goals based on their technical, financial, and regulatory feasibility.

A champion of sustainability. Boise has a track record for leadership on sustainable planning and implementation of local climate solutions. Increasingly, the scope of their sustainability work has included a focus on energy policy. A sample of Boise's innovative work includes a model house for energy efficiency upgrades, aggressive energy reduction goals for municipal buildings detailed in the 2015 Livability Report, and the groundbreaking construction of the Twenty Mile South Farm as the first commercial zero net energy facility in the state. Recently, Boise led energy efficiency efforts in the Treasure Valley with the adoption of updated building codes at the end of 2017. All of these initiatives are truly innovative and have been met with overwhelming community support.

Idaho is facing major energy decisions. Several of Idaho Power's dirty, out-of-state coal power plants are scheduled for early retirement. As more dirty energy comes offline, the role of city leadership in defining the future of energy in Idaho becomes increasingly important. Cities of similar size have influenced energy decisions and led their utilities by using city goals to drive conversations about resource investments. Setting 100% clean energy goals leaves no room for interpretation, helping prioritize energy efficiency and renewable resources to ensure Idaho is preparing for the future of energy in the west.

Clean energy is taking off in Idaho. Two of the largest solar projects in the entire Pacific Northwest are less than an hour outside of Boise. Rooftop solar grows exponentially every year. Utilities around the state are implementing community solar programs. Solar employment grows every year, employing more than 600 folks statewide. The City of Boise is planning on expanding what is already the largest municipally operated direct use geothermal energy system in the U.S. The opportunity for growth is significant and Boise's clean energy goal setting can continue driving expansion of our clean energy economy.



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