



DES MOINES' 24/7 CLEAN ENERGY GOAL

January 11, 2021, the Des Moines City Council unanimously adopted a resolution to transition the community's electricity away from fossil fuels to clean energy sources, around-the-clock, by 2035. Not only is this Iowa's first municipal 100% clean energy pledge, the 24/7 goal is also thought to be the first of its kind nationwide.

Des Moines' Goal

The [resolution](#) committed the City of Des Moines to achieve a community-wide 24/7 carbon-free electricity goal by 2035.

The City's greenhouse-gas emission (GHG) goals were updated to align with Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recommendations and committed to developing partnerships that advance a 45% reduction of GHG emissions from 2010 levels by 2030 and to reach net-zero GHG emissions by 2050.

Around-the-Clock Clean Energy

Over 170 cities across the country have made 100% clean energy pledges, including many midwestern neighbors. While admirable, not every 100% clean energy pledge would achieve the same outcome.

Today, when we flip on the lights, Iowa's power increasingly includes electricity from renewables, but also power from coal and methane gas plants. A 24/7 clean energy system means the available electricity at every given moment comes from a renewable resource. Carbon-free, not carbon-neutral.

No matter when a home appliance is turned on, an electric vehicle is charged, or an industrial facility powers up, a 24/7 clean energy system would provide all homes, businesses, and electric vehicles with clean, emissions-free power around-the-clock.

To get to a 24/7 clean energy system, we must greatly increase our renewable resources and the ability to store that electricity, so it can be used any time. We must use our energy efficiently to power more with less. And we must phase out fossil fuel generation.

DES MOINES' 24/7 CLEAN ENERGY GOAL

Reasons Cited in Resolution

- Improved air quality, enhanced public health
- Business attraction, local job growth
- Local impacts of climate change; 2018 flooding and 2020 Derecho storm
- Climate projections: Align with IPCC recommendations to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius
- Inequities and climate justice
- Grid resiliency & energy security
- Affordable, sustainable power
- Reduce building and transportation emissions

"It signals the City's commitment to a clean energy future and ensures that all residents have access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy. We hope this resolution conveys to other cities that bold action is necessary as we strive to limit climate change and prevent further warming." - Mayor Frank Cownie, city press release, Jan. 19, 2021

Achieving the Goal

The City Manager and his designees are directed to work with utility partners, businesses, residents, and community stakeholders to identify a collaborative approach to achieve the emissions targets and energy goals with meaningful benchmarks and milestones between now and the target years referenced in this resolution.

The City will encourage local resource development and continue to pursue options for renewable energy systems on government buildings and properties through ownership and Power Purchase Agreements, develop public electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and phase in electric fleet vehicles, non-road equipment, and public transportation

While personal and local actions are important, the utility's commitment to increasing clean energy resources, developing innovative energy systems, and retiring coal plants will be necessary for this goal to be successful.

Additional Climate & Energy Measures

Prior to the adoption of the 2021 resolution, Des Moines took the following actions:

- Mayor pledged to uphold the Paris Climate Agreement
- City goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 28% by 2025
- Established the Des Moines Citizen Taskforce on Sustainability (2015)
- Enacted the Energy and Water Benchmarking Ordinance (2019)
- The city hired a Sustainability Program Manager (2020)