

COALITION FOR PORTLAND'S JUST TRANSITION TO 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY

Our Points of Unity

THE GREAT THREAT

Climate change presents an enormous threat to all life on the planet. Recent studies calculate that global temperatures could rise by 1.5 degrees Celsius as early as 2020, crossing planetary thresholds and safe limits set by climate scientists and accepted by the great majority of countries. We have an obligation to stop this from happening.

Moreover, climate change disproportionately impacts those least responsible for the crisis - low-income communities, communities of color, and communities in the global south. We have an obligation to work with these communities to adapt to climate change and to relieve their suffering.

CATASTROPHIC CLIMATE CHANGE CAN BE ENDED

A successful transition to a 100% renewable energy system is possible based on existing technologies and knowledge.

Renewable energy generation technologies utilize wind, water, sun, earth, and biological processes without releasing net greenhouse gasses. The urgent need to keep fossil fuels in the ground, and prevent the ecosystem damage done by their extraction makes renewable energy the best and safest choice. These renewable resources are more broadly distributed than fossil fuel resources, and utilizing them can create a more decentralized, resilient, adaptable and equitable energy system. In evaluating renewable solutions, priority should be given to those that have the lowest impacts on humans, wildlife, and ecosystems. The transition to a renewable energy future should be guided by principles that minimize risk of harm and provide as much benefit as possible.

In addition to renewable energy generation, rapid and substantial improvements in the efficiency of energy use must be aggressively pursued.

PORTLAND AS A MODEL CITY

The Portland 2015 Climate Action Plan is quite comprehensive about the sources of greenhouse gas emissions and the means by which they can be lowered. The City Council must continue to implement that plan with clear and accountable annual targets for energy use, energy efficiency, and renewable energy generation.

Annual targets must be integrated into all city plans, from inception to conclusion.

Annual targets should be set with the goal of achieving 100% renewable energy by 2030. Targets for action must include electricity, transportation, heating and cooling and industrial processes. The timeline for action in each sector may need to vary. It is entirely feasible to achieve 100% renewable electricity by 2030 and to make substantial progress in other sectors by that time. The entire 100% transition should happen in all sectors no later than the year 2050.



FUNDING FOR A JUST TRANSITION

The city should leverage all available financial resources and create new funding opportunities. What is “realistic” at any given time depends on the city’s willingness to fight for additional financial resources and to organize support for a just transition among Portland’s communities.

IMPLEMENTATION OF A JUST TRANSITION PROCESS SHOULD BE GUIDED BY THE FOLLOWING:

- ☛ The transition to 100% Renewable Energy should be pursued through a just, democratic, inclusive, and transparent policy-making process.
- ☛ Annual targets must include goals for expanding living wage green jobs, including unionized green jobs, and providing equivalent employment for workers affected by the transition to a green economy.
- ☛ Annual targets must be guided by environmental justice and the expansion of opportunities for jobs and wealth creation in low-income communities and communities of color.
- ☛ Programs and projects that promote democratic participation and local initiative should be prioritized.
- ☛ With regard to energy generation, a central role must be assigned to “distributed,” democratically controlled, local energy production.

COALITION FOR 100% PDX

