



#RENEWable2040

How We Can Make Electricity Cost Less and Do More in New Orleans

We will soon have the opportunity to set a new direction for renewable energy in New Orleans that lowers electric bills, creates jobs, and avoids the pollution that harms our neighborhoods and warms our planet.

On May, 19, 2021 at 10:00 am, City Councilmembers on the utility committee will hold a public meeting to hear residents’ input on the [draft Renewable Portfolio Standard or RPS](#). Below is a rundown on the Council’s draft RPS – the good, the bad, and the ugly – and what you can do to have your voice heard.

The good

Renewable solar and wind energy are the cheapest and cleanest sources of electricity. The City Council’s draft RPS is a step in the right direction. If passed, the RPS would be a legal mandate and require that by the year 2040, all of the electricity Entergy supplies to New Orleans comes from energy that does not add to the climate crisis. This would create opportunities for ensuring equity, lowering electric bills, and creating jobs with the expansion of solar power and energy efficiency across the city. New Orleans would join the 31 states and three US territories that have established RPS mandates.



The bad

The draft RPS includes nuclear energy from Entergy’s poorly run and costly Grand Gulf plant. Nuclear energy is not renewable and creates hazardous radioactive waste. The City Council’s decision to include this nuclear energy in the draft RPS goes against the federal complaint the Council recently filed with other regulators which demands Entergy refund \$1B charged to customers for frequent malfunction costs at Grand Gulf.



The ugly

Entergy opposes a mandatory RPS and wants to make the RPS voluntary. Entergy wants to increase profits and get credit in the RPS for its scheme to sell even more dirty energy by adding new customers at the Port and the Sewerage & Water Board. Entergy also wants credit in the RPS for unproven methods of carbon capture at its polluting power plants. This would mean no change to the status quo of sky-high bills, poor service, and pollution.



Our recommendation

[Energy Future New Orleans](#) advocates for making New Orleans a 100 percent renewable energy city by 2040. The draft RPS currently falls short of this goal. We

recommend approval by the City Council without nuclear. This would provide New Orleans residents with the benefits of renewable energy with efficiency and storage that costs less and does more for our homes, neighborhoods, job creation, and business opportunities. We will continue to push for a standard that does not include nuclear energy.



What you can do

Let City Councilmembers know that you support the draft Renewable Portfolio Standard without nuclear. Ask your family, friends and neighbors to do the same.

Go to: <https://council.nola.gov/meetings/2021/20210519-utility-cable-telecom-and-tech/>. Fill out the public comment form and submit it between Tuesday, May 18 and before 10:00 am on Wednesday, May 19. Your comment will be read for Councilmembers to hear at the utility committee meeting.

