

These 25 U.S. Cities Are Now Committed to 100% Renewable Energy



Illustration by Aaron Goodman

By Lorraine Chow | [EcoWatch](#)

Madison, Wisconsin and Abita Springs, Louisiana are transitioning to 100 percent [renewable energy](#) following respective city council votes on Tuesday.

Madison and Abita Springs are the first cities in Wisconsin and Louisiana to make this commitment. They join 23 other cities across the United States—from large ones like San Diego, California and Salt Lake City, Utah to smaller ones like Georgetown, Texas and Greensburg, Kansas—that have declared similar goals.

Here's why a 100% clean energy economy is much closer than you think: <https://t.co/Fk4iEfilVe> [#ReadyFor100](#)

<https://t.co/toeA0Klura>

– Sierra Club (@SierraClub) [June 12, 2016](#)

Madison is the biggest city in the Midwest to [establish](#) 100 percent renewable energy and [net-zero carbon](#) emissions. The Madison Common Council unanimously approved a resolution to allocate \$250,000 to develop a plan by January 18, 2018 that includes target dates for reaching these goals, interim milestones, budget estimates and estimated financial impacts.

Madison Common Council Alder Zach Wood said that his city is determined to “lead the way in moving beyond fossil fuels that threaten our health and environment.”

After a unanimous vote, Abita Springs is [aiming](#) to derive 100 percent of the town’s electricity from renewable energy sources by December 31, 2030.

The [Sierra Club](#) noted that Tuesday’s votes from the politically polar municipalities reflect the growing bipartisan support for alternative energy development. To illustrate, during the November election, more than 70 percent of Madison voters supported [Hillary Clinton](#) versus the 75 percent of voters in St. Tammany Parish, where Abita Springs is located, who supported [Donald Trump](#). But as Abita Springs’ Republican mayor Greg Lemons said, “Transitioning to 100 percent renewable energy is a practical decision we’re making for our environment, our economy and for what our constituents want in Abita Springs.”

“Politics has nothing to do with it for me. Clean energy just makes good economic sense,” Lemons added.

LeAnn Pinniger Magee, chair of Abita Committee for Energy Sustainability, had similar remarks.

“In a state dominated by oil interests, Abita Springs is a

unique community that can be a leader on the path to renewable energy,” she said. “Our town already boasts the solar-powered Abita Brewery and we can see first-hand how clean energy benefits our businesses and our entire community. By transitioning to 100 percent renewable energy, we will save money on our utility bills and protect our legendary water and clean air in the process.”

Last year’s [Gallup poll](#) indicated for the first time that a majority of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents prefer an alternative energy strategy. Fifty-one percent of Republicans favor alternative energy, up from the previous high of 46 percent in 2011.

“Whether you’re Republican or a Democrat, from a liberal college city or a rural Louisiana town, clean energy is putting America back to work and benefiting communities across the country,” Jodie Van Horn, director of the Sierra Club’s [Ready for 100](#) campaign, said. “That’s why Madison, Wisconsin and Abita Springs, Louisiana, today join the ranks of 23 other cities and towns across the United States that are going all-in on clean, renewable energy.”

Van Horn noted that local leaders and governments will be increasingly tasked to curb President Trump’s [pro-fossil fuel policies](#) and gutting of environmental regulations.

“As the Trump Administration turns its back on clean air and clean water, cities and local leaders will continue to step up to lead the transition towards healthy communities and a more vibrant economy powered by renewable energy,” she said.

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