2025 ISSUE

RENEW MISSOURI NEWSLETTER

In This Issue

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Everything is Terrible, Or is It?

By James Owen, Executive Director

Let's not bury the lede here: you want to know about the future of clean energy in light of all the bad news you've heard. Congressional funding appropriated for renewable energy and energy efficiency has been frozen by sycophantic bureaucrats. Lawmakers are standing by while their Constitutional authority is mocked or ignored. We have a President who believes wind turbines cause cancer. Like everything else, the future of clean energy has been thrown into chaos.

This ignores what's going on at the state level. Regulators are now actively cheering on utilities to raise rates for the sake of building more gas plants. Lawmakers, who say they abhor inflation, had no problem passing Senate Bill 4 this session. While we have more to say about this later in the newsletter, this **new law is going to make it easier for investor-owned utility companies to increase your utility bill and to do so more quickly.** Electric companies spent millions of dollars on the 2024 election to make this possible. Rest assured, companies like Ameren and your local co-operative expect compensation for that investment into the political wheels of Jefferson City.

But when things get bad, there's a chance to fight back. Already, courts have reopened funds authorized by the Inflation Reduction Act, and now they are going towards projects like solar arrays and battery systems. Republicans have bucked their own party to stand up for these opportunities.

In Missouri, utilities continue to invest in clean energy projects. Renew Missouri has fought, and won, concessions to see more solar coupled with battery storage, and more is promised in the next ten years. While lawmakers **have made it easier to build natural gas plant generation, customers still are demanding clean energy,** and the utilities are responding. More and more clean energy continues to join the grid here in the Show-Me State.

Assurances are rough when the daily drumbeat of information sounds so bad. I've been telling people to consider working on things within their control. Get back to the roots of your community. For example, many County Commissioners are making decisions about whether clean energy projects can be built in your community. Often, these local leaders only hear from opponents spouting off misinformation. Usually, supporters are quieter.

Renew Missouri has put together information to help educate these local elected officials, as well as members of the public, in our Farm to Future program. We've included information from this project in this newsletter (see page 8). It's a good way to learn about the economic benefits of clean energy, as well as the laws surrounding property rights. There's no reason to stop at learning about these issues. Consider running for a local board or commission. Many towns and counties have volunteer-led bodies that make decisions about land use. Consider joining one, if you have time. This can make a real difference in whether Missouri becomes a leader in clean energy or not.

Also, did you know rural electric cooperatives have a Board of Directors, and you can vote on them every year? **Many people don't realize they have a direct say in the leadership of their utility**. We break down which RECs are good, bad, or ugly with our Scorecard.

As long as you are reading about legislative updates from this year's session, perhaps consider reaching out to your lawmakers – State Rep or Senator – and ask if they will speak to you directly about energy and utilities. Many of them are more than happy to talk with a constituent, and they want to hear what is on your mind. If they do not hear from you, they may assume no one cares about renewables or efficiency. Let them know that is not the case. There's much more in this newsletter, and we hope you enjoy reading what our talented staff have developed. We also hope this gives you inspiration to get more involved and make a difference in places where it can do the most good.

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

It Was A Rough One

By Tyler Travers, Policy Director & Campaign Coordinator

This year's legislative session, concluding in mid-May, was one of the most significant in recent memory, especially concerning utility regulation. As early as 2024, Renew Missouri raised concerns after then-Governor-elect Mike Kehoe announced a sweeping utility-focused agenda, which was even supported by the Public Service Commission (PSC) itself. Kehoe's transition team, along with state regulators, signaled their intent to fast-track the construction of new power generation, primarily gas, by overhauling investor-owned utility laws.

A Year for Complicated Utility Policy - CWIP, FTY, and IRP Changes

To accomplish this, lawmakers introduced several complex and technical policy changes. Among them were expansions of Construction Work in Progress (CWIP) and Plant In Service Accounting (PISA)—both controversial mechanisms that make it easier for utilities to recover costs from customers **before projects are completed.**

Another major change was the adoption of Future Test Years (FTY) for gas and water companies, **allowing utilities to raise rates based on projected future expenses** rather than actual historical costs.

Furthermore, this agenda also sought to implement a more expedited Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) process, which now **permits the pre-approval of utility projects**. This means that, if the PSC accepts an IRP, projects detailed within are automatically greenlit and approved to move forward. This provision, while not inherently a concern for Renew, will require that we spend even greater time and resources intervening before the PSC. These changes were all bundled into Senate Bill 4 (SB 4), a large omnibus package that eventually passed into law. **The Consumers Council of Missouri estimates the combined impact of provisions in SB 4 will raise utility bills for the average household by approximately $1,115 annually.**

If this all sounds complicated - it's because it is! It almost takes a Ph.D. in accounting to understand just one of these provisions, let alone the combined legislative package that it later became. **Utility lobbyists leveraged the complexity of SB 4 by overwhelming lawmakers with dense, technical information, deliberately complicating and accelerating the legislative process** to limit scrutiny of its most troubling provisions. While these provisions are highly technical, the impact is simple: they make it easier for utilities to raise customer rates and shift financial risk away from shareholders and onto the public to build fossil fuel generation.

While Renew Missouri joined a coalition of concerned advocacy groups in strong opposition to many of these ideas, we were unable to stop the freight train that was SB 4 and the utilities' team of eighty-plus corporate lobbyists. **The consequences of this law will be felt for decades, likely resulting in faster and steeper rate increases for Missouri households.**

THE CONSEQUENCES OF THIS LAW WILL BE FELT FOR DECADES, LIKELY RESULTING IN FASTER AND STEEPER RATE INCREASES FOR MISSOURI HOUSEHOLDS.

A Bright Spot in SB 4

But there is some good news. Thanks to our persistent advocacy, we were able to secure several important provisions within SB 4 that will help protect vulnerable Missourians. These include:

- **New protections for low-income households** allow the PSC to create rate classes specifically for customers with high utility burdens. This income-based tariff is the first-of-its-kind in Missouri and will help ensure that people don't have to choose between paying their utility bills and affording basic needs, like food or medicine.
- **Extend weather-based shutoff protections,** which prohibit utilities from disconnecting service during periods of extreme heat or cold.

Slow but Steady Progress in Filing Solar Legislation

This year also saw significant progress for solar legislation in the Capitol. There is a growing trend of bipartisan support for solar energy. Many of our priority pieces of legislation were filed and championed by right-leaning legislators. Renew Missouri even **worked with a Republican lawmaker to create a solar energy and battery storage rebate program** (see House Bill 1487). We believe this innovative idea has great potential to move in future sessions. Additionally, **legislation enabling Community Solar made significant strides this year as House Bill 662** (HB 662) cleared two separate House committees, including by a unanimous vote in the House Legislative Rules Committee. HB 662 was approaching debate and final passage from the full House of Representatives until the bill's sponsor, Rep. Ben Keathley, experienced a health emergency. We look forward to working with Rep. Keathley again and building on the excitement and momentum for Community Solar in 2026.

As the regulatory changes of Senate Bill 4 take effect, we will continue to advocate tirelessly for ratepayers and the future of renewable energy before the PSC. Your support is more vital than ever and greatly appreciated. We remain steadfast in our mission to ensure a fair, affordable, and sustainable energy future for all Missourians.

"WHAT CAN I DO"?

How YOU Can Play a Part in Our Clean Energy Future

By Abby Dickinson, Development & Campaign Associate

It's easy to feel overwhelmed by everything happening in the world right now. But it's important to not let that feeling stop you from taking action. There is a lot of meaningful work to be done - and you can be part of it!

ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN THE HOME

Energy efficiency is one of the most powerful tools we have for building a clean energy future. It's also an area where individuals have real influence. While you might not be able to choose how your energy is generated, you can choose how efficiently you use it.

Below is a checklist of energy efficiency and conservation measures you can take at home. How many have you already tried?

ENERGY EFFICIENCY CHECKLIST

$ = least costly
$$ = moderate cost
$$$ = most costly

- ☐ Switch to LED light bulbs (renter friendly): $
- ☐ Change HVAC air filter (renter friendly): $
- ☐ Install programmable or smart thermostat (rebates available): $
- ☐ Install low flow showerheads and faucets (renter friendly): $
- ☐ Use smart power strips (renter friendly): $
- ☐ Air sealing by weatherstripping or caulking doors and windows (renter friendly): $$
- ☐ Upgrade heating and cooling systems (rebates available): $$$
- ☐ Insulating walls, floors, pipes, and attic: $$$
- ☐ Using cool roofs or reflective material: $$$

ACTIONS TO REDUCE ENERGY USAGE

- ☐ Unplugging electronics when not in use (renter-friendly): free
- ☐ Washing your clothes in cold water instead of hot water (renter-friendly): free
- ☐ Use appliances during off-peak hours to reduce stress on the electric grid and save money on your utility bill (renter-friendly): free

Don't forget to check with your utility for rebates on energy efficient appliances and programs to reduce energy usage. Find a list of programs on our Energy Resource Navigator at www.mosaves.com.

WE'RE WEATHERIZING SPRINGFIELD AND COULD USE YOUR HELP!

Renew Missouri's **new home weatherization pilot program in Springfield offers free (that's right, FREE) home upgrades to increase energy efficiency for income-qualified residents.** We are collaborating with the Ozark Area Community Action Corporation and the Drew Lewis Foundation to make this a reality. With these home weatherization kits, we anticipate **over 800 households will save $100 a year** on their utility bills, minimizing carbon emissions in the process. Springfield residents who are City Utility customers and whose household income is less than 60% of the state median income are eligible to apply!

While Renew was generously awarded grant money from the Community Foundation for the Ozarks, it only funds a portion of our project. We have more fundraising to do. If you would like to support the Springfield community, we are actively receiving donations for this program.

To donate, visit www.renewmo.org/donate or mail your donation with the letter included in this newsletter.

WHAT'S UP WITH THE IRA?

Among many other things that have been going wrong recently, there has been a great deal of uncertainty surrounding federal funding for clean energy products and services. Specifically, the current administration has done everything within its power (and many things not within its power) to claw back funds distributed by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

As of the writing of this newsletter, the House of Representatives has proposed a complete elimination of tax credits and incentives on solar, battery storage, energy efficiency upgrades, electric vehicles, and clean hydrogen projects. The Senate has proposed phasing out the tax credits over the next two years and fully eliminating the other incentives. Experts have estimated this will raise consumers' annual electric bills between $250-$415 per household each year.

TIMES ARE A-CHANGIN'

Most blame President Trump for the federal funding freeze, but the fact of the matter is, he is not the only one to blame. Congress has also played a part by not holding the Executive Branch accountable for its illegal fund withholdings. Your members of Congress are not doing their due diligence to ensure these appropriated funds are distributed.

WHAT CAN I DO?

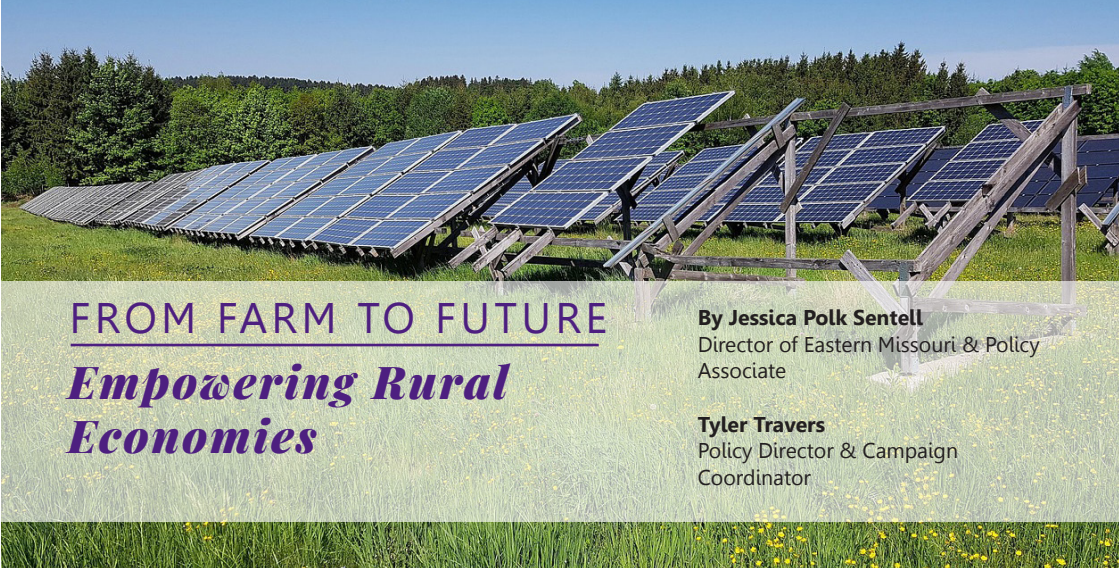
Congress needs to hear from constituents who are unhappy with these recent actions. Or inaction. Renew Missouri urges you to call your member of Congress and let them know that IRA funding has already been authorized and must be made available. The IRA must be allowed to work!

Did you miss our inaugural Advocacy Conference last year? Don't worry, we are planning our second annual conference! You are invited to join us for this year's conference on Saturday, September 20, on Missouri S&T's campus in Rolla, Missouri. We will have speakers and discussion groups highlighting important utility-related issues. There is something for everyone - IOU customers, public utility customers, and rural electric cooperative member-owners!

If you'll be in the area, or if you can make the drive, we would love to see you there!

Lunch provided - Be sure to sign up for our email list as we confirm more event details. To sign up, go to...

www.renewmo.org/get-involved/#re-news-sign-up



FROM FARM TO FUTURE

Empowering Rural Economies

By Jessica Polk Sentell
Director of Eastern Missouri & Policy Associate

Tyler Travers
Policy Director & Campaign Coordinator

Clean energy isn't just reshaping Missouri's electric grid- it's also transforming local economies, fueling job growth, and delivering lasting benefits to schools and communities across the state.

With over **56,000 clean energy jobs** and **$5 billion in capital investments already flowing into Missouri's wind, solar, and energy storage sectors**, the state is rapidly becoming a hub for renewable investment. This momentum is only accelerating as a new wave of clean energy projects are now under development. But beyond the energy itself, these projects are creating real, tangible benefits at the local level.

FARM TO FUTURE
EMPOWERING
RURAL ECONOMIES

New Revenue for Local Governments & Schools

In 2022 alone, **renewable energy projects generated $20 million in tax revenue** for Missouri's local and state governments. That's money directly supporting public schools, infrastructure, emergency services, and community development.

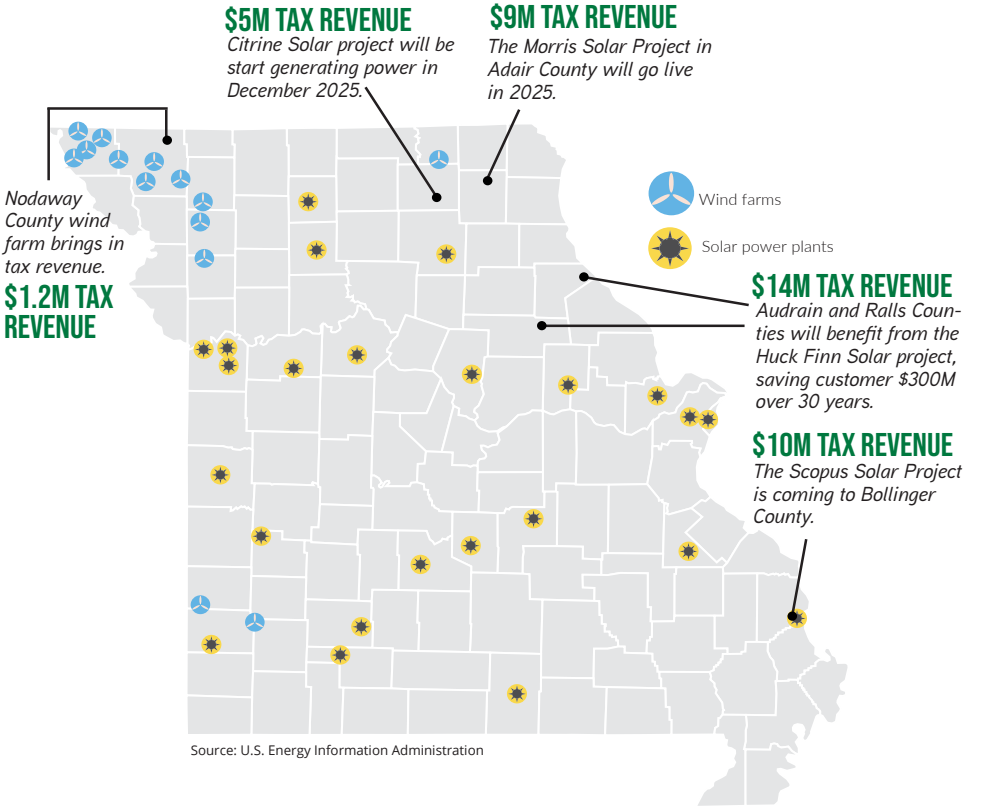
Take Nodaway County, for example: a single wind farm brings in approximately $1.2 million in property tax revenue each year. Of that, 68% - about $186,000 annually - is directly invested in local public schools. The other 32% goes to other governmental entities, including municipalities and rural fire protection districts. In Adair County, the Morris Solar Project, set to go live in spring 2025, is projected to bring in nearly $9 million over 35 years, or about $176,000 per year (with about 70% earmarked for the Kirksville R-3 School District). But its impact doesn't stop there; the project is also providing income to landowners, scholarships for students, and funding for partnerships with the local Chamber of Commerce, 4-H Club, and other community groups.

Plus, there is more to come! A second Adair County project, Citrine Solar, is on track for completion by the end of 2025. It's expected to deliver over **$5 million in new tax revenue**, supporting essential public services like roads, health programs, and libraries.

In Bollinger County, the Scopus Solar Project is poised to inject at least **$10 million in new tax revenue** throughout its lifespan–strengthening schools, infrastructure, and local government. The project will also support social services through a donation to the Bollinger County Caring Council.

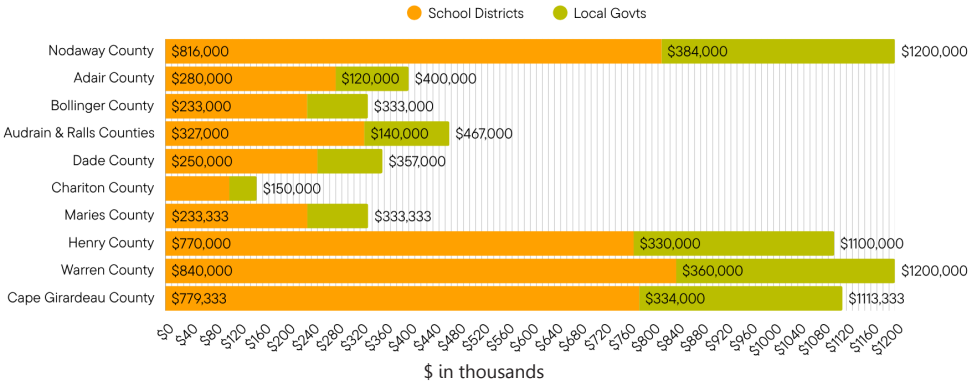
Meanwhile, Audrain and Ralls Counties will benefit from more than **$14 million in revenue** generated by Ameren Missouri's Huck Finn Solar Plant. In southwest Missouri, Liberty Utilities' wind farms in Barton, Dade, Jasper, and Lawrence Counties are projected to **save customers over $300 million over 30 years**—while simultaneously generating $250,000 annually for just one local school district in Lockwood.

MISSOURI MAP OF CURRENT AND FUTURE WIND & SOLAR PROJECTS



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

ESTIMATED ADDED ANNUAL INCOME FROM CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS IN MISSOURI



Diversification for Farmers & Landowners' Rights

Every Missouri farmer knows that any given year might yield a bad crop. Drought, flooding, early freezes, tornadoes, diseases, pests, fly ash, drifting herbicides, and other uncontrollable scenarios threaten crop and livestock profitability on a daily basis. When mother nature or notoriously volatile market conditions are unfavorable, farmers often look to their land for a way to make up lost revenue. Some sell off timber or rent out pasture, but those options also come with significant risk and can potentially permanently change the land's future profitability.

Solar and wind projects **give farmers and landowners relief** from depending on unpredictable crop yields and livestock markets and offer a way to cultivate their land without the risks associated with deforestation or trusting someone else to properly care for the property. In fact, **Missouri landowners receive over $16 million annually** for such projects. The University of Missouri Extension found *"returns per acre from a utility-scale solar energy lease — even after property taxes and other land ownership costs — can far exceed farm enterprise returns or farmland cash rents."* Many farmers are also learning about agrivoltaics, a way to raise livestock, such as sheep and goats, or grow crops - namely hay, alfalfa, clover, or soybeans - alongside solar and wind installations.

Once the lifespan of the equipment has been fulfilled or a farmer decides the solar or wind technology is no longer serving its purpose, the infrastructure can be removed and the land can again be cultivated exactly as it was before. Solar and wind projects are truly a **cash crop that farmers can use to bridge the gap between volatile markets and a need for predictable income.** These projects also speak to the independent nature of Missouri farm families to harvest their land as they see fit, which the state of Missouri affirmed in 2014 with the passage of the Missouri Right-to-Farm Constitutional Amendment.

Rural Missourians, conservative groups, and lawmakers across the state praised the Right-to-Farm Amendment, with Missouri Farmers

Care, the Missouri Farm, and many other farm organizations were staunch supporters of the measure. This change, now permanently part of the Missouri Constitution, specifically guarantees farmers the right to use their land to produce energy, among other things. (This amendment should be considered in counties considering land-use ordinances, as restrictions may be unconstitutional.)

Economic Development & Energy Security

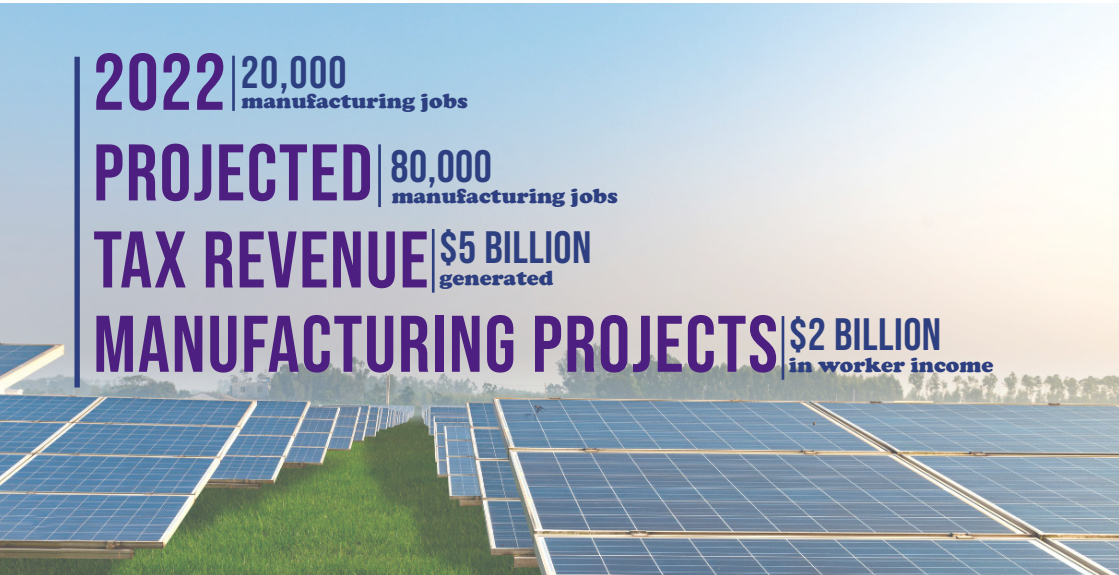
Clean energy is also an economic development tool; it creates new jobs, increases the area's tax base, reduces the state's reliance on volatile fossil fuel imports, provides customers with lower cost electricity, and increases domestic energy production. **Clean energy accounted for 6% of U.S. GDP growth in 2023.** If Missouri moves toward cleaner energy infrastructure, low-cost electricity and the availability of clean energy have the potential to create new jobs in the energy industry and attract companies with sustainability goals.

One-to-one, **clean energy investments generate approximately three times more jobs than equivalent investments in fossil fuels.** Nationally, nearly $8 billion was invested in solar, wind, and battery storage in 2024.

> ***"Jobs in sustainable energy grew 4.2[%] in 2023, more than twice the rate of the overall economy. More than 3 million Americans are part of today's sustainable energy workforce.... By deploying these homegrown sustainable energy solutions, the United States is building a competitive and secure national economy. Sustainable energy investments are bringing manufacturing – and jobs – back to America."*** -The Business Council for Sustainable Energy, 2025

The Guthrie Solar project in Callaway County, for example, will create 250 new jobs just to construct the facility, and a second project in the county also expects to create "hundreds of jobs." Both projects anticipate permanent jobs - such as management and technicians - after construction is finished.

Rural communities have already begun to reap the benefits of renewable energy investments, with roughly 20,000 manufacturing jobs



generated since 2022, and an additional 80,000 manufacturing jobs projected to be available. Rural manufacturing projects are projected to generate $2 billion in worker income and nearly $5 billion in tax revenue. Rural municipalities should leverage the economic opportunities afforded to them by clean energy investments to bolster their local economies and the public services in their communities.

Nucor Steel in Sedalia

Tangible projects are happening right now in Missouri. For example, Nucor built a $250 million steel plant in Sedalia, MO. The **micro-mill is the first in the country to run on wind energy.** The Nucor steel plant brought in 500 construction jobs as well as 250 permanent positions, with entry-level positions starting around $65,000 annually. That's nearly double the area's average starting wages of $35,000.

Investing in Clean Energy Attracts Big Business

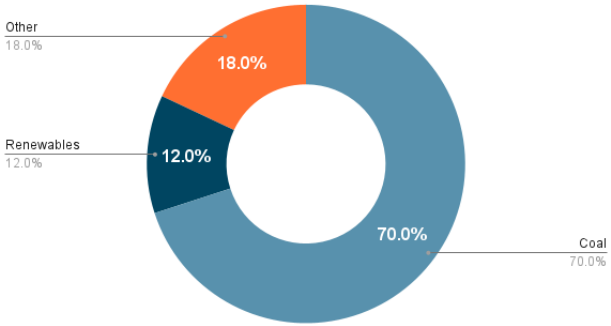
Major Missouri-based companies, like SSM Health, Walmart, World Wide Technology, Mastercard, bioMerieux, Google, and Air Products, already use locally produced clean energy, and these companies have expressed a desire for or will require more clean energy to meet their emissions goals.

Furthermore, Artificial Intelligence and data centers are swelling electricity demand. Amazon, Google, Meta, and Microsoft have ambitious emissions reduction goals and seek clean energy resources for their data centers. Big tech companies and other organizations prioritize clean energy when selecting locations for cheaper energy costs, as well as sustainability purposes. Increasing clean energy resources in Missouri will attract more manufacturers, retailers, and other businesses.

In Kansas City, there are two major data centers in the works. **Meta announced they will be building an $800 million data center**, providing up to 100 jobs. This nearly one million-square-foot facility will be powered entirely by renewable energy, making it one of the most sustainable data centers in the world. In March 2024, **Google announced their $1 billion investment in a new data center.** The company is working with Evergy, Ranger Power, and D. E. Shaw Renewable Investments to run the data center entirely on clean energy using a **5,000 acre solar farm in Henry County.** The solar farm and data center will generate approximately **1,000 new construction jobs, 1,400 permanent jobs, and over $1 million annually in tax revenue for Henry County.** This revenue will be distributed to taxing entities in the area, such as the county government and the school district.


Council Bluff Data Center

MISSOURI ELECTRICITY GENERATION MIX



Fossil Fuels: Unreliable and Expensive

Coal accounts for 70% of electricity generated in Missouri, and virtually all the coal used is shipped in from out-of-state. The cost to import coal adds to the cost of Missouri's electricity. Clean energy now outcompetes fossil fuels, and analysts project wind and solar costs will continue falling further below coal and natural gas costs.

> ***In fact, "81% of renewable capacity additions in 2023 produce[d] cheaper electricity than fossil fuel alternatives."***

Utilities prioritizing clean energy projects over new fossil fuel plants can pass savings along to Missouri's utility customers. The U.S. has saved $19 billion in fossil fuel costs due to renewable power added since the year 2000.

As one writer put it, "Conservatives have long championed policies that create jobs, respect property rights, and protect taxpayers – clean energy delivers on all these fronts".

What Are Other States Doing?

Iowa has one of the most stable grids in the country and electricity rates significantly lower than the U.S. average. The low rates are attributable to the clean energy resources available. Thirty-six percent of Iowa's electricity is generated by wind power. Iowa is the easiest state in which to purchase clean energy. Low rates and resource availability attracted data centers owned by Meta, Apple, Microsoft, and Google. Google entered a twenty-year agreement for wind energy from NextEra's Story County II facility in 2010. **All of Meta's data centers and offices are powered by 100% renewable energy** in the U.S. Meta's second Iowa facility has an attached wind project. Apple's data center in Waukee is also powered 100% by wind energy.

In Kansas, Panasonic is constructing an Electric Vehicle ("EV") **battery plant with a commitment to a low-carbon footprint that will provide 4,000 jobs to the area.** The company is working with Evergy to purchase clean energy and is considering an on-site solar facility.

Century Aluminum Company is building a green aluminum smelter that uses carbon-free energy to power operations that will bring in 5,500 construction jobs and 1,000 permanent jobs. The location for the smelter has not been finalized, but the company is looking within the Ohio/Mississippi Basins. The project was selected to receive up to a $500 million investment from the Department of Energy ("DOE"). Annie Sartor, Aluminum Campaign Director at Industrious Labs, said,

> ***"[t]his announcement demonstrates just how critical low-cost clean energy is not only for this new facility, and also for the remaining U.S. smelters that are struggling with high fossil-energy costs".***

Century had contemplated purchasing the recently curtailed Magnitude 7 Metals plant, but the company did not see any incentive to locate its facility in our state. It was a missed opportunity by leaders that could have returned critical jobs to rural Missouri.

There is No Time Like the Present

The time is now to invest in clean energy. Across Missouri, clean energy is already generating millions of dollars for counties, helping fund schools, repair roads and bridges, and fuel local economies. For County Commissioners and school boards, this means **more resources to strengthen the services that keep communities thriving.** For residents, it means access to good-paying jobs—both temporary and permanent—that often exceed local wage averages.

Clean energy also opens doors for landowners. Leasing land for renewable development offers farmers a stable, long-term revenue stream—one that isn't dependent on weather, markets, or shifting trade policies. With the 2014 Right-to-Farm amendment, **Missourians have a Constitutional right to use their land for energy production.** That right must be protected and respected in every decision that affects property use.

Rural Missouri has a chance to lead, not lag behind. Our neighbors are already reaping the benefits of clean energy—stronger tax bases, new jobs, and revitalized communities. Let's not let this opportunity pass us by. By embracing clean energy now, we secure a brighter, more prosperous future for our families, our schools, and our hometowns.

"Farm to Future" is meant to start the conversation about clean energy benefits for your county. We are building a network of county and civic leaders who can share their experiences with clean energy siting and provide real facts, rather than misinformation from fossil fuel interests and social media. These rural leaders provide realistic perspectives – not just the positives – on their experience with wind and solar. Contact us if you would like to get connected!

FARM TO FUTURE
EMPOWERING
RURAL ECONOMIES

PROGRESS IN RURAL POWER

Over Half of RECs Improve 2025 Score Ratings

By Philip Fracica, Director of Programs

After reviewing and updating our Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) scorecards for 2025, we found that **24 of Missouri's 40 cooperatives have improved their scores from the previous year,** in part due to Renew's dedicated advocacy in rural Missouri! Some co-ops made significant jumps toward more sustainable practices. For example, **Callaway Electric improved across all categories, making strides in areas such as solar access through a solar energy sourcing program** and improved co-op election transparency.

Farmer's Electric and Grundy Electric also made considerable improvements, in large part due to offering a solar sourcing program. **Ozark Border and Pemiscot-Dunklin also took steps to ensure greater election transparency and information access to members on their websites**, thus improving their scores by quite a bit. Boone Electric, whose score had previously been stagnant, rose this year to be the highest scoring REC by making improvements in energy efficiency and information access for members.

Not all RECs have made such strides, though. **Nine cooperatives saw a decrease in their scores,** with a noteworthy decrease from **Laclede Electric, which has taken steps to backtrack their transparency to members** across several fronts. Furthermore, of the RECs that decreased, many **scores dropped due to a lack of transparency around election practices, governance, and making bylaws digitally inaccessible.**

Renew Missouri continues to hold these RECs accountable. Your continued support and advocacy are crucial to our long-term goal of bringing our co-ops forward to invest in clean energy generation at the same levels that our Investor Owned and Municipally Owned Utilities already have, in order to create affordable, resilient, and reliable energy systems.

The table to the right is list of Missouri rural electric cooperatives and their total score across five categories: elections, bylaws, information access, energy efficiency, and solar access. The highlighted 'SCORE' colors show if the co-op either improved, declined, or stayed the same from 2024 to 2025. The table is also split into five groups: failing, missing the mark, needs improvement, on the right track, and meets good standards.

IMPROVED

DECLINED

STAYED THE SAME

RURAL ELECTRIC CO-OP	SCORE	
Gascosage Electric	1	FAILING
Se-Ma-No	2	
Black River Electric	3	
Howard Electric	3	
Ralls County	3	
Laclede Electric	4	
New-Mac	4	
Consolidated Electric	4.5	
Missouri Rural	4.5	
North Central Missouri	5	
Osage Valley	5	
Three Rivers	8	MISSING THE MARK
Barton Electric	9.5	
Atchison-Holt Electric	10	
SEMO	10.5	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT
Sac Osage	11	
West Central	11	
Carroll Electric	12	
Howell-Oregon	12.5	
Southwest	13	
Pemiscot-Dunklin	14	
Webster	14	
Grundy Electric	15	
Ozark Border	15	
United	15.5	ON THE RIGHT TRACK
Barry Electric	16	
Co-Mo Electric	16	
Ozark Electric	16	
Crawford Electric	16.5	
Tri-County	16.5	
Farmer's Electric	17	
Lewis County	17	
Intercounty Electric	17.5	
Callaway Electric	18	
Macon Electric	18	
Citizens Electric	19.5	
Cuivre River Electric	22	MEETS GOOD STANDARDS
White River	22	
Platte-Clay	23	
Boone Electric	24	

ELECTIONS

Criteria based on accessibility, methodology, and transparency of co-op elections.

BYLAWS

Scores based on accessibility, communication, mail-in voting, and flexibility.

INFORMATION ACCESS

Scores based on communication, accessibility, transparency and board candidates, and clearly defined bylaws.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Scores based on the number of energy efficiency program offerings (e.g., rebates, incentives, & low-income programs).

SOLAR ACCESS

Scores based on community solar offering. Pass or fail score.

YOUR GUIDE TO MISSOURI ENERGY

Ever wondered how your power is made and regulated in Missouri? Energy is essential, but do you know how it all works here?

ENERGY IS MADE AND DELIVERED BY THREE DIFFERENT TYPES OF SUPPLIERS

In Missouri, state regulators (Public Service Commission) provide oversight of investor-owned utilities (IOUs), which handle all stages of electricity supply—generation, transmission, and distribution—independently, without relying on outside companies.

Municipal utilities often buy electricity from large suppliers, though some generate their own. They operate the local energy distribution within city limits to serve residents directly.

Rural electric cooperatives (RECs) primarily focus on power delivery to their members. They may generate some electricity through smaller plants but often purchase power from larger cooperatives.

1 How does energy work in Missouri?

Investor Owned Utilities

IOUs are privately-owned utilities that make a profit on selling energy. Companies include, Ameren, Evergy, and Liberty/Empire

RECs & Municipal Utilities

These not-for-profit utilities are governed by their member-elected boards or City Council, respectively.

Missouri ranks **18th** in the U.S. in wind power generation.

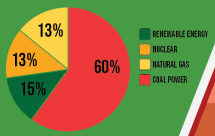
In 2023, Missouri had 2,400 MW of wind power that provided 74% of the State's renewable electricity!

2 What kind of energy is made in Missouri?

Missouri relies heavily on coal-fired power generation, ranking fourth among all U.S. states in coal consumption.

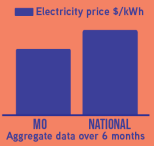
Wind power accounted for 3/4 of the Missouri's total renewable generation!

Types of Energy Produced in Missouri (2023)



3 How much money do Missourians spend on electricity?

On average, Missouri residents spend about $183 per month on electricity. That adds up to $2,196 per year.



Average electricity rates are 14 cents per kilowatt hour, so that means the average electricity customer uses 1,314 kWh per month.

MISSOURI SOLAR BY THE NUMBERS

Missouri ranks **19th** in projected solar growth.

Missouri ranks **36th** for total installed solar

Missouri solar prices have fallen **↓43%** over the past ten years.

Missouri's growing solar industry is partially due to the Residential Clean Energy Credit that helps homeowners save money when installing solar by offering a 30% tax credit of the cost of the solar AND falling solar prices.

4 How much solar is in Missouri?

Total solar installed (MW)
661.37
129.39 MW in 2023

Enough solar installed to power
71,032
homes

Growth projections over the next 5 years (MW)
↑3,342

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MISSOURI AT A CROSSROADS

Meeting the Energy Demand of a Digital Future

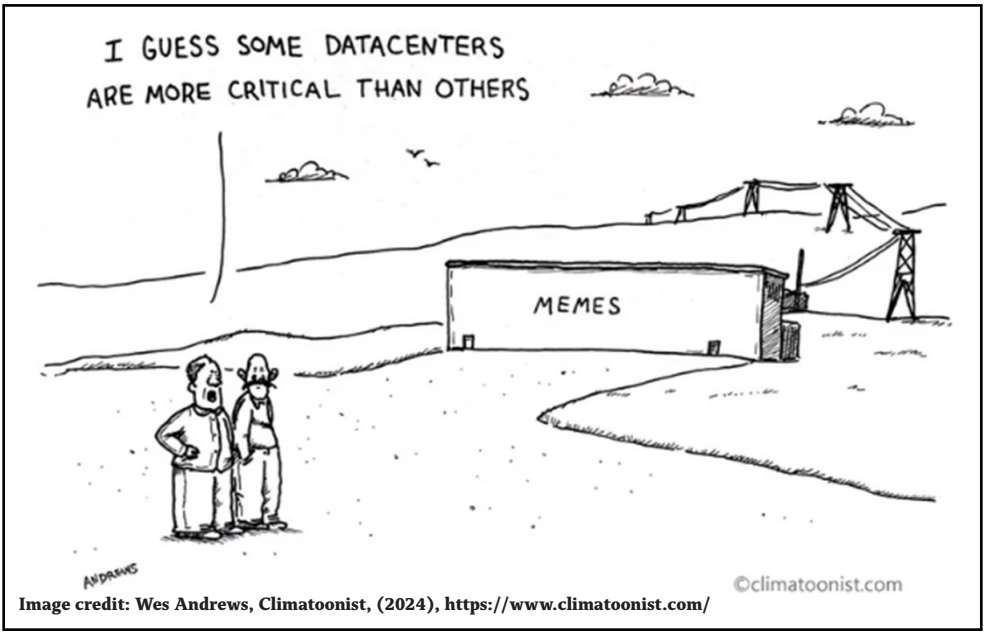


Image credit: Wes Andrews, Climatoonist, (2024), https://www.climatoonist.com/

By Tori Cheatham, St. Louis Regional Director and
Abby Dickinson, Development & Campaign Associate

From pop culture memes—like President Trump as a Star Wars Jedi—to predicting disease outbreaks, artificial intelligence ("AI") is becoming an important part of our lives. Data center proposals are flooding the grid, and forecasts show demand for massive amounts of electricity. In fact, in the United States, **data center power consumption is projected to account for nearly half of the country's electricity demand growth between now and 2030**. Some forecasts estimate data centers could go from consuming roughly **1% of US electricity to something more like 12% by 2030,** quintupling the pace of demand growth. Data centers are energy expensive, adding expeditiously to our country's already-exponentially growing electricity demand (i.e., electric vehicles and electric heating/cooling), leaving many wondering if we will be able to produce enough energy to keep up.

Between the constant processing of data and the sophisticated cooling systems required to prevent overheating, these facilities consume a staggering amount of electricity and water. In fact, according to the U.S. Department of Energy, data centers use 10 to 50 times more energy per square foot than a typical commercial office building.

Currently, data centers account for approximately 4.4% of global electricity consumption, and the demand is only climbing. U.S. electricity demand could grow 25% from 2023 to 2030 and 78% by 2050, driven in the near term by artificial intelligence data centers.

Just Because We Need More Electricity Doesn't Mean We Need More Gas Plants

By no means has Missouri been left out of the data center conversation. Of all the jobs created by AI across the country, between **2% and 5% of those jobs have gone to Missouri.** For example, Google is building a $1 billion data center in Kansas City. The center will create 1,000 construction jobs and 1,400 permanent jobs. It will also generate over $1 million annually in tax revenue AND will rely entirely on a 5,000 acre solar farm in Henry County.

Hunt Midwest Business Center

Future energy demand has sparked many conversations with Missouri lawmakers about reliability and if Missouri has the capacity to support such energy demands. **Utilities and regulators are worried about this sudden paradigm shift and are reaching towards what they know best, building more gas plants**. Other than some of the obvious reasons for why building more gas is NOT a panacea, let's explore several other ways to achieve Missouri's increasing electricity demand.

Prioritizing Energy Efficiency and Preserving Building Codes

There is no surprise here that we are touting efficiency as a primary mechanism in slowing down new demand growth. In fact, in **2007 it was predicted electricity demand would grow by 21% over 15 years.** But this was never realized. Efficiency was the cause of this whopping, 785 terra-watt hours of 'missing demand.' Energy efficiency is the largest contributor to avoiding projected growth because of utility efficiency programs, federal and local building codes, appliance standards, and voluntary industry consumer efforts.

Utility efficiency programs **decreased electricity demand by 220 terawatt hours (TWhs) per year from 2006 to 2021,** accounting for a third of projected demand growth. However, efficiency programs are shrinking, as seen here in Missouri when the Public Service Commission (PSC) approved to slash energy efficiency programs offered by investor-owned utility companies. But a bright spot is the possibility of a statewide energy efficiency program, which is under discussion right now.

We don't often talk about building codes at Renew Missouri, but they're a vital piece of the energy efficiency puzzle—especially as they came under fire in the Legislature this year. In fact, **building codes and appliance standards have a proven track record of reducing energy** use. Federal appliance standards alone **cut electricity consumption by 21% in 2015.** Strong building codes ensure that new construction is energy efficient, saving residents money and reducing emissions. However, it is worth noting that the federal Energy Star program is currently facing potential cuts under the current administration.

This session, House Bill 939 passed the Missouri House (but stalled in the Senate). It would have banned cities and municipalities from including energy-efficient or sustainable building standards in their codes if those standards increased construction costs. Communities would have been forced to roll back to 2009 building codes, eliminating any energy efficiency provisions adopted since then—regardless of their environmental or long-term economic benefits. While the bill didn't become law this year, we expect it to return next session. If passed, it would be a major setback for local control and for energy efficiency.

Energy efficiency has quietly delivered some of the biggest gains in managing electricity demand—and it still holds enormous potential. But those gains are at risk if we allow proven tools like utility programs and building codes to be weakened or eliminated. Missouri's policymakers should be doubling down on efficiency, not dismantling it. As energy demand surges, we need every available strategy to reduce strain on the grid, protect consumers from higher bills, and lower emissions. Preserving and strengthening building codes, appliance standards, and statewide efficiency programs isn't just smart policy—it's essential to meeting Missouri's future energy needs.

Alternatives to Building More Gas

Building new gas plants doesn't happen in a vacuum. Choosing to expand gas generation means implicitly rejecting other solutions—like renewables, storage, or efficiency—as too costly, too slow, or not viable. Yes, every energy option has challenges right now, from long interconnection queues to local pushback against wind and solar. But that doesn't mean gas is the best—or only—answer. Here are four ideas to bolster resource adequacy:

1 **Build renewables and storage where you can!** Solar paired with an accompanying battery storage facility can be built much faster, especially when using existing interconnection infrastructure, such as at retired coal plants. Battery Energy Storage Systems ("BESS") are an excellent way to combat reliability issues. Renew Missouri got Ameren to recognize the potential of battery storage, and now Ameren has committed to building a 200 MW battery storage by 2026 and another 800 MWs by 2032.

2 **Generate closer to demand.** Encourage large customers to add resources onsite and offer demand flexibility to offset the need for more peak capacity. For example, Google's billion dollar data center in Kansas City will be powered by a 5,000 acre solar farm a few counties away.

3 **Work with data centers to have flexible demand.** The push for new gas is largely due to needing 'peaker units' that respond to the relatively few hours per year when the grid is stressed. These short peaks can be addressed through demand response, where customers voluntarily reduce electricity use during grid stress, instead of increasing power generation. For example, in 2023, Google tested a system that shifted non-urgent tasks in its data centers to different times or locations during grid stress. The result was a reduction in strain without affecting services.

4 Make better use of existing grid infrastructure. Instead of waiting years and spending billions to build new transmission lines, utilities can deploy grid-enhancing technologies—like dynamic line rating, power flow controllers, and energy storage devices—in just a few months and at a fraction of the cost. These upgrades can nearly double the capacity of existing lines, helping unlock access to more renewable energy and bring it online faster.

Data Centers Raising Costs for Customers

With this rising demand for data center power, the question arises as to where the money will come from to pay for such expenditures. The answer is, unfortunately, your everyday consumer will likely pick up the bill. In some states, **residential consumers are projected to incur up to ⅔ of the cost of these data centers' power burden**, which is why we need consumer protections.

There's some positive news for Missouri residents when it comes to rising electricity demand from data centers. SB 4 includes important consumer protections that help shield average customers from unfair rate hikes.

Under SB 4, utilities with more than 250,000 customers must create and submit special rate schedules—known as a service tariff—for customers projected to use over 100 megawatts of electricity annually. In simple terms, this means very large power users, such as data centers, will be required to pay some of their fair share of the costs tied to their massive energy consumption.

This helps ensure that residential and small business customers aren't left footing the bill for the increased infrastructure and generation needed to support energy-hungry operations, like data centers. As we've discussed, data centers require enormous amounts of electricity to run—and under SB 4, Missouri consumers won't be stuck paying for it.

What Now?

The **surge in electricity demand is a critical test for whether the utility industry is prepared to move beyond outdated solutions and embrace cost-effective clean energy technologies.** Utilities can no longer afford to fall back on business-as-usual approaches—nor can the communities and consumers who depend on them.

While challenges vary by state or utility, proven solutions are available to all. Regulators must reject the idea that every increase in demand requires a brand-new gas plant. Instead, policymakers should take a proactive and discerning role in advancing clean energy strategies and customer-driven solutions. If not, we risk locking in expensive, polluting gas infrastructure that will burden consumers and the environment for decades to come.

photo source: canva

2024 PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION UPDATE

By McKenna Thompson, Legal Researcher

Renew Missouri continues to engage in regulatory work across the state, particularly at the Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC). As utilities seek approval for new generation projects and updates to rate structures, we're at the forefront advocating for clean, affordable, and equitable energy solutions. Here's the latest breakdown of what's happening at the PSC and what it means for you.

Ameren's Big Rate Case

In March, the PSC approved a settlement in **Ameren Missouri's electric rate case, authorizing a $355 million increase in annual electric revenues effective June 1**. While rate cases are rarely cause for celebration, this settlement includes a few key wins.

- The **$9 monthly residential customer charge will remain unchanged**, preventing a flat fee hike that would disproportionately burden low-usage and low-income households.

- The case also prompted Chair Kayla Hahn to specifically address the topic of time-of-use (TOU) rates for net metered customers, citing that rate structures that promote more efficient electricity usage and help reduce peak demand are necessary for consumers. Renew Missouri has long advocated for the use of TOU rates for customers with solar on their property, and we see their inclusion and discussion in this case as a meaningful step forward.
- The settlement also touches on **low-income community solar, battery storage, and importantly, Ameren will not seek recovery of costs related to its Rush Island facility**.

However, the resolution does not account for several new potential cost drivers introduced by 2025's Senate Bill 4, and the large revenue increase in the settlement reflects the influence of the Plant In Service Accounting (PISA) mechanism mentioned in the Legislative Update earlier.

MEEIA Cuts

The PSC has substantially reduced the budgets proposed for Missouri's energy efficiency incentive programs under the Missouri Energy Efficiency Investment Act (MEEIA). Cuts were significant, even after extensive negotiation and settlements were reached. Evergy's proposed MEEIA Cycle 4 plan originally sought approval for $213 million in programming over four years. After PSC review, the budget was reduced to just under $70 million. Similarly, Ameren's MEEIA proposal aimed for a total of $366 million, and after settlement, was approved for $125 million.

Renew Missouri was directly involved in both proceedings and worked to hammer out settlements that would preserve program offerings for both residential and commercial

customers. Unfortunately, just weeks after making significant progress in negotiations, the utilities signaled they would settle for far less than their original proposals under pressure from PSC leadership. This is a **major setback for energy efficiency in Missouri** and further emphasizes the need for more consistent statewide leadership on clean energy investments.

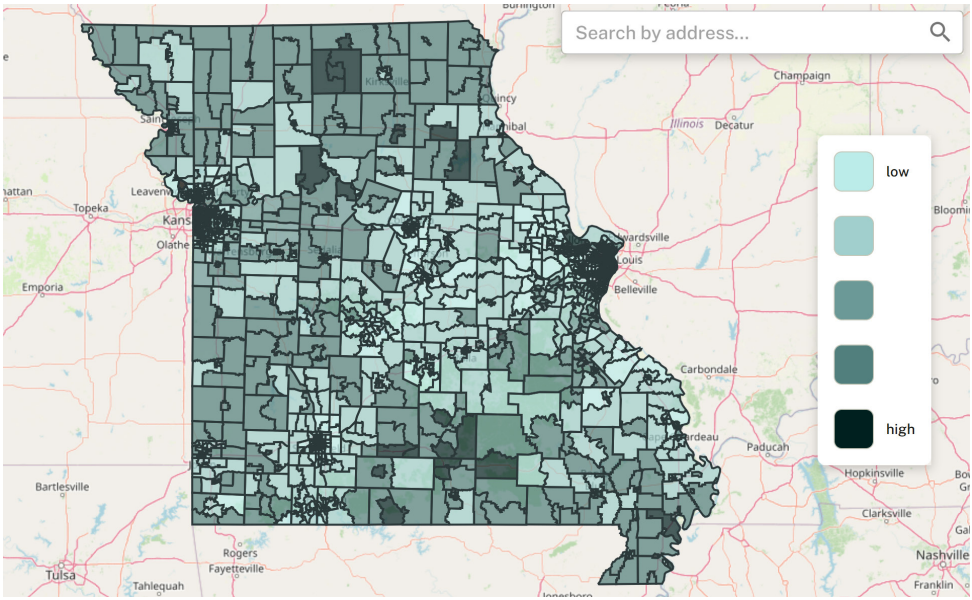
On the bright side, the MEEIA settlement included a provision for a possible **statewide energy efficiency office**. We fought to get that language included in the stipulations and agreements, as we have advocated for this potential office for over a decade, laying the groundwork for a statewide energy efficiency program. If implemented, it could offer long-term stability and coordination for energy-saving programs across Missouri, something that is lacking under the current utility-by-utility approach. The creation of a statewide office would allow Missouri to scale energy efficiency more effectively and equitably. We are currently working with other shareholders to study the matter further.

New Power Plants on the Docket

Evergy is seeking permission to construct three new natural gas generation facilities between Kansas and Missouri. This is a developing case. We encourage everyone to follow our email listserv to stay up to date on this proceeding. **At the Castle Bluff Energy Center, Ameren recently received approval for an 800 MW gas peaker plant in St. Louis County.**

While we have strong concerns about the environmental and economic impacts of peaker plants, our intervention in the case resulted in a notable compromise: Ameren has committed to file a CCN for a **150 MW battery storage system**. Additionally, we received assurances that Ameren would look into using power from the Grain Belt Express transmission line as a way to integrate renewables into the grid. We will continue to watch this as it develops.

Renew Missouri is proud to have a dedicated and skilled team of attorneys and expert witnesses who consistently advocate for clean energy interests before the PSC. Our Renew Crew invests countless hours preparing detailed testimony, crafting legal arguments, and engaging in negotiations. All the while navigating procedure and regulatory rules. Their work not only informs Commission decisions but also plays a huge role in advancing forward-thinking energy policy. Thanks to our legal team's commitment and expertise, we're helping shape a cleaner, more affordable energy future for Missouri.



By Tori Cheatham, St. Louis Regional Director

MAPPING THE COST OF INEQUITY
Understanding Energy Burden in Missouri

Over the past three years, Renew Missouri, the Consumers Council of Missouri, and the Sierra Club have partnered to study and address one of Missouri's most pressing and pervasive challenges: energy burden. Working alongside major utility providers—including Ameren, Evergy, and Spire—we developed the Missouri Energy Burden Explorer, an interactive tool that offers a clearer, data-driven look at how energy costs disproportionately impact communities across the state.

Unlike many energy maps that rely on modeled or estimated data, the Explorer uses actual utility billing data, making it one of the most accurate public tools available for understanding the geography of energy burden in Missouri.

The Missouri Energy Burden Explorer provides a powerful visual and data-driven resource to support policy change, community education, and targeted relief efforts. It's a tool designed to inform—not just decision-makers and utilities—but also advocates, civic leaders, and residents who want to understand and advocate effectively for their communities.

What Is Energy Burden?

Energy burden **refers to the percentage of a household's income spent on utility bills.** When this percentage exceeds 6%, a household is considered to have a high energy burden. This burden isn't just a number—it has real consequences. Families often must choose between paying their energy bill or covering essential needs like food, medicine, rent, or childcare.

The **Energy Burden Explorer displays data by census tract,** but it's important to remember that this is an average. Not all households within the same tract share the same energy burden. In some cases, families are paying up to 30% of their income on energy alone—especially those in older, inefficient homes or those with fixed or limited incomes.

High energy burdens can lead to a cascade of negative effects—**from utility disconnections and evictions to worsened health and childhood academic performance.** Families in these situations live in a constant state of financial insecurity, making tough decisions just to keep the lights on.

Key Findings from the St. Louis Energy Burden Report

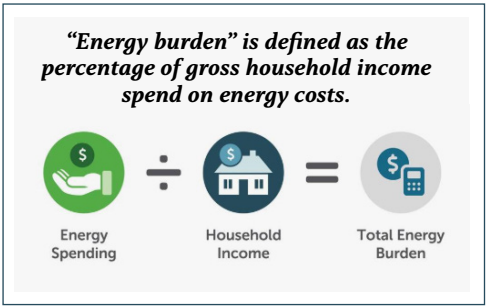
Renew Missouri and our partners conducted an analysis of St. Louis census tracts using the Energy Burden Explorer. Our analysis reveals stark disparities between communities and how energy burden intersects with race, income, housing quality, and health:

- In St. Louis City, **approximately 19,300 households live in census tracts classified as high energy burden areas** (6% and higher). In comparison, St. Louis County has about 12,500 such households.

- Black communities in St. Louis are disproportionately impacted. **Around 16,000 Black households in the City live in census areas where the energy burden is higher than 6%.**

- These disparities are rooted in historic redlining, disinvestment, and systemic racism, which have left many neighborhoods with aging, inefficient housing that drives up utility costs

- Energy burden is strongly correlated with respiratory illness rates, including asthma and other lower respiratory diseases. **St. Louis City residents in high-burden areas experience twice the rate of respiratory hospitalizations compared to those in low-burden communities.**



Using the Energy Burden Explorer to Make Impactful Policy Changes

These energy burdened areas are not isolated in the St. Louis area. There **are high burdened census tracts all over the state,** and it is clear we are reaching a point in Missouri where many customers are simply unable to afford paying their utility bills. Just this year alone, over **25,000 Ameren customers were disconnected for unpaid bills and around 795,000 customers are in arrears, falling behind in payments.** This will only get worse in the future with the passage of Senate Bill 4 and its associated price increases, as well as increases to basic household goods that are a result of President Trump's trade wars. Solving energy inequity requires more than data—it demands change.

With this tool, policymakers, utility providers, and community organizations have a clear road map for where to focus resources and reform. Whether it's investing in energy efficiency upgrades, weatherization programs, or expanding access to clean, affordable energy, there are solutions on the table.

- Encourage utility companies to create targeted awareness campaigns in high energy burden zip codes for existing programs that provide financial assistance and energy efficiency upgrades. This means investing more in education and outreach strategies to connect with hard-to-reach customers.

- Utilities must expand their current bill assistance program budgets.

- Utility companies should develop long-term payment plans for income-qualified customers who have outstanding bills. Many utility companies have these and allow customers to repay their bill with less hardship while the utility company gets paid.

- Fully support and fund federal programs, like LIHEAP, which is at risk of being terminated from the current administration. Millions of Americans rely on LIHEAP for bill assistance and, if this program goes away, it will be devastating for these high-burdened areas.

- Increasing access to community solar programs is an excellent way to invest in renewables and offer affordable utility rates. Utilities, third party developers, and community groups should work together to implement community solar programs.

What's Next for the Project

Energy burden is a serious, wide-reaching issue that tens of thousands of Missourians face every single month. At Renew Missouri, we're expanding our efforts to tackle this crisis by incorporating utility and health data from 2023 and 2024, helping us better understand the full scope of the problem.

Our goal is to broaden outreach and equip communities with the tools they need to lead their own advocacy efforts. A key part of this work is promoting our **Energy Resource Navigator—a one-stop shop for energy efficiency programs and utility bill assistance. The Navigator includes an income eligibility calculator to help Missourians easily find which programs they qualify for and how to apply**.

There's still a long road ahead in solving Missouri's energy burden crisis—but with your support, progress is possible. Please consider making a donation to Renew Missouri this year to help us grow this vital project and continue fighting for energy justice across the state.

Visit the Energy Burden Explorer HERE

Visit our Energy Resource Navigator HERE

The Renew Crew

JAMES OWEN
Executive Director

James Owen has served as Executive Director of Renew Missouri since 2017. In that role, James works to ensure the organization's mission of making Missouri a leading state in clean energy is realized through policy advocacy and formulation, litigation, public education, and general outreach such as lobbying and social media.

In addition to serving as Director, James is also a licensed attorney (in both Kansas and Missouri) and can handle legal duties for the group, as well. He also serves as an expert witness before the Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC) and other bodies across the country. Prior to this role, James was appointed as Public Counsel by Governor Jay Nixon. In that role, James served as the state's leading consumer advocate, representing the public before the PSC. Before moving to mid-Missouri, James served as an Associate Circuit Judge in Webster County and practiced law in southwest Missouri for several years.

James obtained his BA from Drury University in Springfield and obtained his law degree from the University of Kansas. In his spare time, he likes to write and watch movies. Combining these two hobbies, James is the film columnist for The Columbia Daily Tribune and on-air critic for KFRU. He lives in Columbia with his wife, Claire, and their children, Cecile and Miles.

TYLER TRAVERS
Policy Director & Campaign Coordinator

Tyler Travers is the Policy Director & Campaign Coordinator for Renew Missouri. Originally from Poplar Bluff, Missouri, Tyler has called Columbia home for nearly a decade. He has spent much of that time working in the Missouri State Capitol as legislative staff, amassing over six legislative sessions of experience. Most recently, he served as Chief of Staff to a state senator from Kansas City.

During his tenure, Tyler helped pass significant pieces of legislation, including the enforcement of the Mental Health Parity Act, expanding access to HIV medication, prohibiting texting while driving, and the Language Equality & Acquisition for Deaf Kids (LEAD-K) Act, among others. Drawing on this experience, Tyler will help advance Renew Missouri's mission throughout the state. Tyler holds an Associate's Degree from Three Rivers College, a B.A. in History, and a Master's in Public Affairs from the University of Missouri. In his spare time, he enjoys critiquing modern film and television, as well as cheering for his favorite teams: the Mizzou Tigers, Kansas City Chiefs, and New York Knicks.

PHILIP FRACICA

Director of Programs

Philip Fracica grew up in St. Joseph, Missouri and graduated from the University of Missouri in 2015 with a BSBA with an emphasis in Finance. Philip has been on our team for over a decade and is currently our Director of Programs. He focuses on working with municipal utilities and rural electric cooperatives to encourage them to adopt more clean energy programs and work on our federal advocacy as part of the Rural Power Coalition.

Philip has served as an expert witness on energy policy before the Missouri Public Service Commission. He is currently pursuing a Master's in Business Administration through the University of Missouri and is currently serving on both the Columbia Water and Light Advisory Board and Missouri's Weatherization Policy Advisory Council.

TORI CHEATHAM

St. Louis Regional Director

Tori has been at Renew Missouri for over five years and serves as the St. Louis Regional Director. She has her M.S. in Environmental Science from Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville. She leads the St. Louis office with various advocacy efforts including: policy research, graphic design, communications, and coalition building. Tori also manages Renew Missouri's Energy Burden Campaign. A project that aims to study and reduce energy burdens across Missouri.

She has lived in St. Louis most of her life and loves to play tennis and is an avid reader. Tori and her husband recently welcomed their first son, Eli, in February 2025!

NICOLE MERS

General Counsel

Nicole Mers grew up in Saint Louis, where she attended Saint Louis University, graduating with a B.A. in psychology and pre-law, with a minor in political science. She then moved to New Orleans to attend Tulane University. Nicole interned with the Alliance for Affordable Energy, a local non-profit that advocated for policies that supported renewable energy development and affordable rates. She was a member of the Environmental Law Clinic. Nicole graduated in 2013, with a certificate in Environmental and Energy Law.

Nicole began employment at the Missouri Public Service Commission in 2015. She spent 9 years with the Commission, primarily as the Deputy Counsel in charge of electric utility cases, making numerous appearances as lead counsel in large rate cases, MEEIA applications, IRP filings, and CCN applications in transmission and renewable facilities cases. Nicole now serves as Renew Missouri's General Counsel.

When not working, Nicole enjoys spending time with her family, her dog and cats, and reading and watching anything spooky.

DAVID STOKELY

Southwest Missouri Policy & Outreach Coordinator

David Stokely grew up in Poplar Bluff, spending many of the best hours of his youth in and on the clean, gravel bottom streams of southern Missouri. He earned a B.S. in Agriculture and Masters in Vo-Tech Education from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Over the years, he has taught high school and college.

For more than 35 years, David operated a commercial equestrian facility. He consulted on wildlife habitat evaluation/improvement for private landowners. His expertise extends to surface-mined coal reclamation, where he performed vegetation, soil, and water quality sampling pre-mining and post mining.

In a nonpartisan role, David recently served as the southwest and southcentral Missouri District Director for former US Senator Claire McCaskill. He actively listened to constituent issues, working with a broad range of Federal agencies to ensure that citizen concerns were addressed appropriately and efficiently.

Currently residing in Christian County he is a member/owner of Ozark Electric Rural Cooperative for over forty years, he has a strong connection to the community.

ABBY DICKINSON

Development & Campaign Associate

Abby Dickinson grew up in St. Louis County. She moved to Columbia in 2020 to attend the University of Missouri for her undergrad and graduated in 2024 with a degree in International Environmental Studies and minors in Spanish and Music. During her time studying at Mizzou, she took over leadership of Climate Leaders at Mizzou, the school's only climate activism club. Through this organization, she lead and forwarded their campaign for the University's divestment from fossil fuels, co-authoring a research paper to make their case in the process.

She also founded the University's first ever crochet club, which she ran for two years, and she still enjoys crocheting as a hobby in her free time. She joined Renew Missouri as the Office Manager Intern in May of 2023 and was hired full time as the Development & Campaign Associate in August 2024 to further the organization's outreach and donation efforts. In her spare time, Abby enjoys crafts of all kinds, reading, and spending time with her partner, her best friend, and her two cats.

JESSICA POLK SENTELL

Director of Eastern Missouri & Policy Associate

Jessica Polk Sentell is the Director of Eastern Missouri & Policy Associate. She grew up in Piedmont and returned in 2012, after spending several years on the East Coast. Upon graduating Missouri State University with a B.S. in Political Science and a Masters in Public Administration, she received the Presidential Management Fellowship, where she was the Program Analyst for the Drug Enforcement Administration's International Operations, Special Projects Branch. She also completed rotational assignments with the Departments of Defense and State.

Before coming to Renew Missouri, Jessica taught social studies and political science at Clearwater High School, Three Rivers College, and Southeast Missouri State University. Jessica serves on the board of directors of the Clearwater R-1 School Foundation and the Clearwater Alumni Association, is a staff member at her church, and a member-owner of Black River Electric Cooperative.

EMILY WEBER

Kansas City Coordinator/Outreach & Education Associate

Emily Weber grew up in rural Kansas. She attended Butler Community College and the Kansas City Art Institute. After graduation, from KCAI, Emily made Kansas City her home. Since graduating, Emily built a career in communications and marketing. She served on the policy committee for Climate Action KC and is currently the State Representative for District 24.

Emily joined Renew Missouri part-time in the Summer of 2023, as the Kansas City Coordinator/Outreach and Education Associate. During her limited free time, she enjoys spending time with her two spoiled dogs and trying to catch up on TV shows and movies.

We would like to thank our incredible Board of Directors who make our work possible. Renew Missouri's successful advocacy is directly attributable to their support, dedication, and insight.

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