The Sierra Club’s #ReadyFor100 Campaign envisions powering the United States with 100 percent clean, renewable energy like wind and solar.

The time for 100 percent clean, renewable energy has come. Fossil fuels are threatening the health of our communities and jeopardizing our children’s future. We can’t sit back as fossil fuel lobbyists stand in the way of energy solutions. It’s time to put power back in the hands of our cities and communities and chart the course to 100 percent clean, renewable energy. **We are #ReadyFor100**

The #ReadyFor100 campaign is challenging 100 communities in the United States to step up and commit to 100 percent clean, renewable energy.

**WHY WE NEED 100 PERCENT RENEWABLE ENERGY**

The oil, coal, and fracked gas industries continue to pollute and threaten the health of people and families across the country without consequences. Four out of every ten people in the United States live in an area with unhealthy levels of air pollution. One out of every four receives water from a contaminated or untested source. These numbers are even worse for communities of color and low-income communities, which all too often have the dirtiest power plants in their neighborhoods.

At the same time, many families across the United States are unfairly locked into costly, dirty fossil fuel electricity. Low-income people are forced to spend high portions of their incomes on energy bills or face ruthless utility shutoffs. Thousands of families are left in the dark during sweltering heat waves and freezing cold spells and this is only worsening as 16 of the 17 hottest years on record occurred after 2001. We all deserve reliable, affordable energy.

**THE 100 PERCENT CLEAN ENERGY OPPORTUNITY**

Powering our communities with 100 percent clean and renewable energy will provide tremendous benefits, such as increased access to affordable electricity, jobs creation in growing industries, and a more resilient national economy.

- Since 2009, the price of solar has dropped 85 percent, and the price of wind power is down 66 percent, resulting in more energy savings for people across the United States.

- Solar power is cheaper than the cost of electricity currently provided by utility companies in 42 of our nation’s 50 biggest cities and in nearly half of all states.

- The renewable energy industry already employs 2.5 times as many workers as the fossil fuel industry, providing millions of new jobs in growing sectors.

- The top 10 coal-burning states funneled $13 billion out of their economies for coal in 2012. Local investment in clean energy projects soared to $59 billion nationwide in 2016.

As we transition towards more clean energy, we must ensure that the benefits of a new 100 percent clean energy economy are equitably shared. This means that the jobs and opportunities created by clean energy provide family-sustaining wages, healthcare and retirement benefits, and union representation for workers.
HOW READY FOR 100 WILL HELP US GET THERE

Dozens of U.S. cities, representing millions of residents, have already committed to transitioning to 100 percent clean and renewable energy in the coming years. This includes big cities like San Diego and Atlanta as well as small towns like Abita Springs, Louisiana, and Hanover, New Hampshire. Many of these commitments aim to achieve 100 percent by 2035 or earlier, while other communities have already achieved this goal and are reaping the benefits. Ready for 100 is building this momentum at an ever-increasing pace.

• Several communities, including Georgetown, Texas and Aspen, Colorado, are already powered entirely with wind, solar, and other sources of clean and renewable energy.

• Major corporations are recognizing that clean energy is not just the right thing to do—it’s also good business. Apple, Ikea, Starbucks are leading a move toward 100 percent clean energy.

• Entire countries are going all-in on clean energy: Denmark and Scotland have both announced bold 100 percent clean and renewable plans.

• The U.S. Conference of Mayors, representing more than 1,400 cities and 42 percent of all U.S. electricity use, passed a resolution supporting 100 percent renewable energy in cities nationwide.

Each of these victories is a result of local residents and community leaders advocating for clean and renewable energy. Our individual actions collectively add up to a groundswell that decision-makers cannot ignore. Just as we switched from horses to cars, telegrams to cell phones, and typewriters to computers we must now commit to switch from dirty fuels to clean energy.

HOW YOU CAN TAKE ACTION

With the federal government retreating from its commitment to address climate change and invest in forward-thinking energy solutions, local communities must step up and make the difference.

Voices all across the country are declaring that we are #ReadyFor100. With more than three million members and supporters, the Sierra Club is harnessing its grassroots power to lift up clean energy victories happening every day. We urge communities across the nation to become 100 percent renewable energy leaders and join forward-thinkers from St. Petersburg, Florida to Salt Lake City, Utah that have made the #ReadyFor100 commitment.

Are you committed to transitioning your city, municipality, or state to 100 percent clean, renewable energy? Show that you are #ReadyFor100 by joining or starting a local campaign, signing a petition, or contacting your local decision-makers. For more information about how to get involved in the movement, go to Readyfor100.org.

ENDNOTES

1 American Lung Association
2 Natural Resource Defense Council
3 NAACP
4 NASA
5 CleanTechnica
6 Department of Energy
7 Department of Energy
8 Union of Concerned Scientists
9 Business Council for Sustainable Energy