

summer issue | june 2021

NEWSLETTER

RENEW MISSOURI

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

A TIME TO RENEW

Missouri is on the verge of big changes. In the fifteen years we have worked to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency, the road has never been without obstacles.

We bring you this newsletter to keep you apprised of our advocacy. It is our hope that we will be able to provide our supporters with in-depth yearly updates about our important work.

Big special interests are always intent on maintaining the status quo. Renew Missouri went directly to the voters. We've filed lawsuits. We've become a fixture before regulators. We've hit the floors of the Missouri Capitol. All to ensure the promise of clean energy to the public, to our economy, and to the world around us.

The seeds we planted are now bearing roots. The

investor-owned utilities in our state – Ameren, Evergy, Liberty - are now aggressively moving away from coal-burning plants and are now focused on solar, wind, and energy efficiency. Hundreds of megawatts of wind are up and running in our State.

“It is not simply a matter of going bigger that will make our state better. Renew Missouri must work toward the idea that ALL Missourians have access to affordable and clean energy.”

Big investments in solar are coming in a matter of a few years. By pushing utilities to invest more into energy efficiency, Evergy and Ameren saved the equivalent of one and a half power plants over the past ten years. But our focus is not limited to just big power companies we work with. Our staff engages with

municipal governments all over the state.

Communities who recognize that sustainable energy sources are the way to better things. We work with local policymakers and lawmakers in every corner of Missouri to ensure regulations move their towns and counties in the same direction of their goals.

Our organization even seeks common ground with rural electric cooperatives. Often we are at odds with the 40-plus Coops and their view on solar and wind. In the past year, Renew Missouri has collaborated with other organizations around the country to push for federal



legislation designed to forgive the government-backed debt on their coal plants in exchange for a transition to renewables and efficiency programs. There's more about that in the pages ahead.

Renew Missouri's accomplishments are directly attributable to your support and your encouragement. We usually don't take enough time to thank you for that.

But we're just getting started. Convincing utilities to shift from coal power to renewable sources takes a lot of time. We are concerned with too much reliance on natural gas. There's also the matter of the Renewable Energy Standard – our biggest opportunity at moving Missouri towards a cleaner future – expires this year. Our initiatives for election year of 2022 will interest many of you. Stay tuned.

It is not simply a matter of going bigger that will make our state better. Renew Missouri must work

toward the idea that ALL Missourians have access to affordable and clean energy. We've made a lot of progress. We have pushed all of our major utilities to use a revolutionary on-bill financing program that can help homeowners and renters make critical investments while saving money.

Our St. Louis staff of Andrew Linhares and Tori Cheatham helped turn our "Renew STL Solar" program into a tool for business owners to save on energy costs through solar and support equitable job development in the St. Louis region. Our Kansas City staff is working with the city to pursue an equitable response to climate challenges.

Even as I write this, Renew Missouri is sketching out plans to provide grants to fellow not-for-profits to help them with solar investments. This would focus on places of worship, day cares, domestic violence shelters, animal rescues, and other services that rely on building

space. Think of what those organizations could do if they reduced their utility bill. I don't just want Missouri to be a leading state for clean energy. I want all Missourians to see the benefit of clean energy in their daily lives.

This is the next chapter of our work: a continuation of the good deeds already done. As we stand on the shoulders of those who have fought and worked for the past fifteen years, we continue to reach for the heavens for a better day for all Missourians.

I hope you will continue your support of Renew Missouri going forward and tune in for exciting developments ahead.

James Owen
Executive Director

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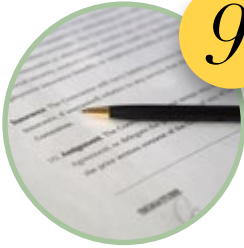
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RENEW STL SOLAR

PARTICIPANTS
BY THE
NUMBERS

PILOT
YEAR
2020

2

PARTICIPANTS

111

KW INSTALLED

FULL
PROGRAM
2021

4

SIGNED

289

KW TO BE
INSTALLED

THE COUNTRY'S FIRST COMMERCIAL SOLAR GROUP BUY PROGRAM: RENEW STL SOLAR

In January 2021, Renew Missouri launched its new program Renew STL Solar, a "group buy" solar program for commercial and non-residential customers in the St. Louis region.

Our program saves building owners money by pooling projects together to reach a higher economy of scale, saving money on solar equipment and reducing customer acquisition costs for the installer. Renew STL Solar simplifies the process of going solar, helping building owners secure all available incentives, locate the right financing, and consider adding EV charging ports or battery storage as part of the project. In addition, our program offers participants media exposure and positive PR, and can help organizations track progress toward sustainability goals. Most of all, Renew STL Solar offers corporations and large institutions a way to support the growth of a clean energy economy and equitable job development in the St. Louis region.

Renew Missouri created the

program with the support of Washington University. Through our St. Louis office, we conducted a competitive RFP process, and selected StraightUp Solar as the program's solar installer partner. We are working with several financing partners, and we have local governments endorsing our program, such as the City of St. Louis, University City, and Creve Coeur. We believe our program is the first of its kind, and could be replicated around the country. Our program is committed to equitable job development in the St. Louis region, and supports the work of the St. Louis Solar Workforce Development pilot program.

Renew STL Solar has a goal of signing contracts for two megawatts of solar and 25 electric vehicle charging stations by the end of 2021. So far, we have installed or contracted for roughly 400 kW of solar, and we are pursuing discussions with some of the region's top corporations and institutions. Moving forward we are expanding the program to create a special use entity to help non-profit and low-income building owners install solar with no upfront cost.

Andrew Linhares
St. Louis Regional Director



RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

Over the past year, Renew Missouri has engaged successfully with Rural Electric Cooperative issues.

As part of this effort we have joined the Rural Power Coalition, a national coalition comprised of other state-based clean energy advocacy organizations to create federal policy to move our rural utilities into the future. We began by creating two detailed reports on the status of the Rural Electric Cooperatives (RECs). The first was our Taking Stock report, where we detail the current state of coal reliance by rural cooperatives in Missouri. Associated Electric, (the body governing Missouri's rural cooperatives) has two large and uneconomical coal plants still operating in the state; New Madrid and Thomas Hill. These plants provide 2,353 MW of total capacity from coal, putting Missouri's rural cooperatives in the top 5 in the country for reliance on coal.

We also published an accompanying memo, Vision for a Way Forward, that details how Associated Electric can embrace new technologies to move away from their reliance on fossil fuel plants. Renew Missouri surveyed REC member-owners and found that there is strong support for shuttering these plants and replacing them with new technologies and programs. These programs included energy efficiency investments, renewable energy installation and generation, electric vehicle infrastructure, electric school buses for our rural schools, local community solar programs, and broadband access. These technologies will help move our rural communities into the future, reduce the energy burdens they face, and create economic opportunities for rural Missourians.

\$1.6 BILLION

RURAL ELECTRIC COOP'S DEBT OBLIGATION OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS



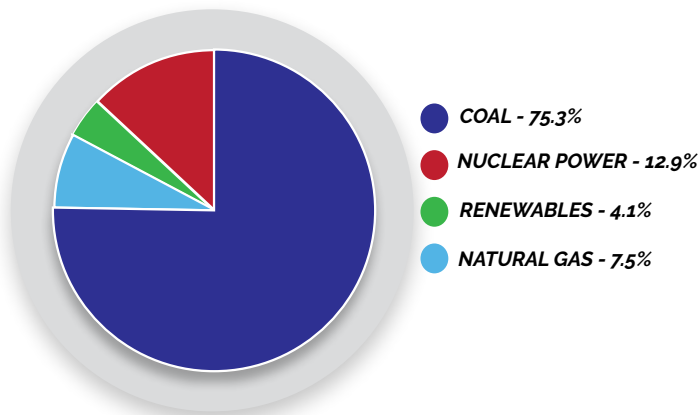
Through our work with the Rural Power Coalition, we are advocating for the Hardship Loan program, a little known federal program that provides loans to RECs to close their aging coal plants. When RECs close these plants and reinvest in their local communities, the loans will be forgiven and be treated as grants, similar to the Paycheck Protection Program offered to Small Businesses as part of the COVID-19 relief efforts. We have been working with members of Congress to draft legislation to put these policies into action and will be able to share more details on our progress with the bill soon.

Most recently, our priorities made it into the White House's Infrastructure Plan. The President's proposal will include \$10 billion for RECs to gain access to low-cost, clean energy by retiring old coal plants and replacing them with modern systems to improve public health and to support local job growth. We are hopeful that the funding level for this effort will increase as we continue to engage with federal decision makers.

Philip Fracica
Kansas City Regional Director

Missouri produced 3,531,846,590 kilowatt hours of clean electricity from wind and solar power in 2020. This diverted the equivalent of greenhouse gas emissions from 544,343 passenger vehicles driven for one year. To put it another way, clean energy produced in Missouri prevented the amount of CO2 emissions that come from burning 2.7 million pounds of coal. While renewable energy production and consumption in Missouri is certainly growing, contributing about 6% to Missouri's total electricity net generation in 2019, we are still heavily reliant on coal.

ELECTRIC POWER SECTOR BY CONSUMPTION BY SOURCE IN MISSOURI, 2018



As this pie graph demonstrates, Missouri utilities are still relying excessively on coal.

Before Renew Missouri's advocacy began in 2006, the state was ranked 49th in renewable energy production.

Needless to say, there was room for improvement. As of 2017, Missouri ranked 43rd in renewable electricity production. These are the most recent numbers available.



MISSOURI'S ENERGY PROFILE

BY THE NUMBERS

1,987
MW OF WIND ADDED IN 2020

479
MW OF WIND UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN 2020

292.8
MW OF SOLAR INSTALLED IN 2020

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION ADVOCACY

“IF YOU AREN’T AT THE TABLE, YOU’RE ON THE MENU.” IF THE POLITICAL ADAGE APPLIES ANYWHERE, IT RESOUNDS IN THE ARENA OF REGULATED UTILITIES

Thanks to our supporters like you, Renew Missouri has been at the table fighting to advance renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in the Show-Me state. Careful observers of the Public Service Commission (“PSC”) will note that cases before the PSC vary in length, but often require years of involvement, with modifications, rehearings, appeals, prudence reviews, and subsequent working groups. With such a situation, limiting updates to limited time frames can be inadequate. For this update, we have attempted to list all the docketed cases Renew Missouri has intervened, followed, and participated in from Jan. 1, 2019 through Dec. 31, 2020. In addition, you should know that Renew Missouri participates in a variety of stakeholder groups throughout the year including the Demand-Side Management Advisory Group (DSMAG)

and the Midwest Energy Efficiency Advisory Collaborative (MEEAC) working groups.

By our tally, Renew Missouri participated in 78 separate Missouri PSC case filings between Jan. 1, 2019 through Dec. 31, 2020. Within that time frame, Renew Missouri has filed 16 pieces of expert testimony from three separate in-house witnesses and one piece of testimony by Mr. Mark Cayce, multiple legal briefs, and briefs at the Missouri Court of Appeals. Page 9 lists Renew Missouri’s activity in those cases within this time frame (note: within those dockets, Renew Missouri may have filed testimony, briefs, etc. outside of the time frame that is not listed below). We advocated our Investor-owned utilities to add 1,057 MW of Wind power, expand renewable subscription programs for Evergy and Ameren Missouri, successfully supported the approvals to build over 8.25 MW of solar generation, and supported plans to develop electric vehicle charging station infrastructure and beneficial electrification programs.

We also advocated for robust energy efficiency programs, including PAYS® on-bill financing, adding tens of millions of



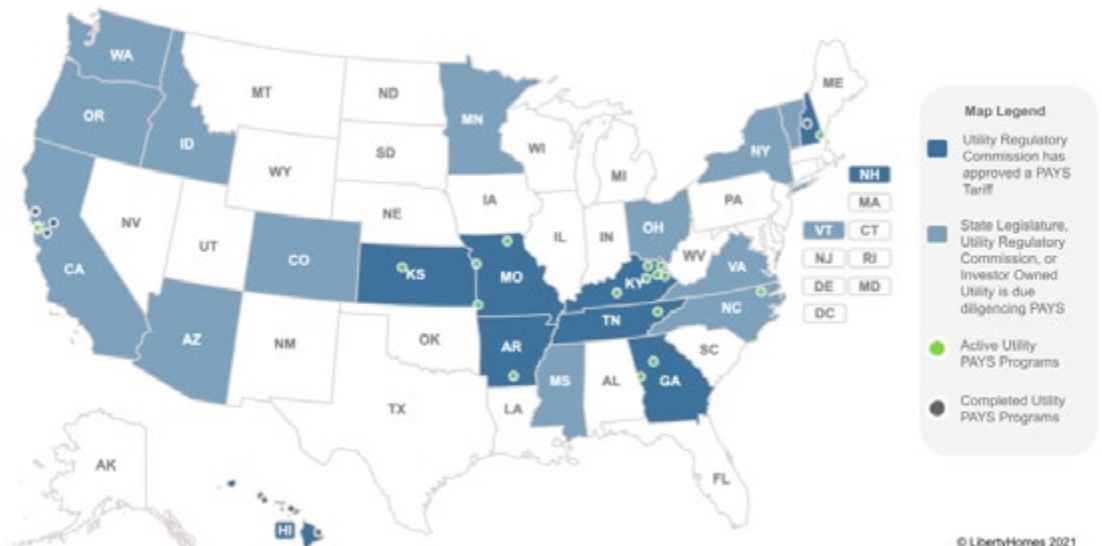
dollars to efficiency program budgets and making Missouri a leading state in this Energy Efficiency program offering. In addition, Renew Missouri advocated for expanding these programs in neighboring Kansas and Kentucky.

In addition to our renewable energy and energy efficiency advocacy, Renew Missouri intervened in accounting cases related to the

COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that efficiency programs continued to be funded, and to ensure that vulnerable customers would not be left without power or insurmountable debt due to economic hardships caused by the pandemic.

Tim Opitz
Counsel

Pay As You Save[®] Utility Program and Regulatory Landscape



RENEW MISSOURI'S INTERVENED CASES

RESOURCE PLANNING CASES

| | |
|--------------|---------------|
| EE-2019-0305 | EO-2019-0245 |
| EE-2019-0362 | EO-2019- 0246 |
| EO-2018-0092 | EO-2019- 0317 |
| EO-2018-0268 | EO-2019- 0318 |
| EO-2018-0269 | EO-2020-0280 |
| EO-2019-0314 | EO-2020-0281 |
| EO-2019-0316 | EO-2020-0281 |
| EO-2019-0320 | EO-2021-0035 |
| EO-2019-0049 | EO-2021-0036 |

NEW RENEWABLE GENERATION

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| EA-2016-0208 | EA-2019-0010 |
| EA-2019-0021 | EA-2019-0181 |
| EA-2016- 0207 | EA-2019-0371 |
| EA-2016-0358 | EA-2020-0371 |
| EA-2018-0202 | |

PURPA CASES

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| EW-2017- 0245 | EW-2021-0077 |
| EW-2018- 0078 | EX-2020-0006 |
| EX-2016-0334 | AW-2019- 0127 |
| EX-2019-0378 | EW-2019- 0229 |
| EW-2019- 0370 | |

ELECTRIC VEHICLE RENEWABLES

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| ET-2019-0237 | EE-2020-0191 |
| ET-2019-0238 | ET-2020-0259 |
| ET-2018- 0132 | ET-2020-0390 |
| ET-2019- 0405 | ET-2021-0020 |
| ET-2020-0022 | ET-2021-0151 |

COVID CASES

| | |
|--------------|---------------|
| AO-2021-0164 | EU-2021- 0145 |
| AU-2021-0072 | GO-2021-0126 |
| AW-2020-0356 | GU-2020-0376 |
| EU-2020-0350 | GU-2021-0112 |
| EU-2021-0027 | GU-2021-0146 |
| SU-2021-0148 | GU-2021-0149 |
| WU-2021-0147 | |

RATE CASES/MERGERS

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| GR-2018-0227 | ER-2019-0335 |
| GR-2018- 0229 | ER-2019-0374 |
| GR-2018-0230 | ER-2016-0179 |
| EM-2018-0012 | GR-2019-0077 |
| EM-2019-0150 | GR-2021-0108 |
| ER-2018-0145 | ER-2018-0146 |

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| EO-2015-0055 | EO-2018-0211 |
| EO-2015-0240 | EO-2019-0132 |
| EO-2015-0241 | EO-2019-0133 |

MOSAVES - ENERGY EFFICIENCY AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

THE CLEANEST AND CHEAPEST SOURCE OF ENERGY IS THE ENERGY YOU DON'T USE.

Energy efficiency is often considered the workhorse of the clean energy world and does not get as much attention as other flashy technologies like renewables. Utilizing energy efficient technology is one of the most important tools to help realize a cleaner environment (indoor and outdoor), make energy more affordable, and improve quality of living.

Energy efficiency simply means using less energy to perform the same task – that is, eliminating energy waste. However, this isn't the only plus side to energy efficiency. Having an energy efficient home can improve your health by making the air you breathe cleaner. This past year, Renew Missouri worked hard to bring awareness to this issue through our Missouri Power 4 Health campaign. We developed three educational PSA videos, hosted on the Renew Missouri web page, that tell the story about how energy efficiency can improve your health and wallet.

Our mission is to shine a spotlight on the benefits of energy efficiency for Missourians. Renew Missouri has some great tools at your disposal to help you realize these energy efficiency benefits. The **MOSaves website** is a tool designed to help Missourians find rebates and discount opportunities for making energy efficiency improvements to their homes. We encourage Missouri residents who are

ready to invest in energy efficiency to check out the website.

mosaves.com

We are also happy to announce that Renew Missouri is taking over the Green Building Registry. This registry assesses the energy efficiency of buildings in Missouri through a simple search. The criteria for energy efficiency comes from qualified sources like the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Home Energy Score™ (HES or HEScore) and Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET). Using this registry can help you find homes that are energy efficient, but we need your help to keep it up and running! The Green Building Registry requires \$5,000 a year to run, so any donations or sponsors would be appreciated.

energy.mo.gov/GreenBuildingRegistryMO

Tori Cheatham
Policy & Outreach Coordinator



2021 LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP

*Thanks to your support, Renew Missouri is focused on legislative issues in the Missouri Capitol. Most years, our biggest accomplishments are what we **PREVENT** from happening. Indeed, the rural electric cooperatives*

pushed to end your right to use solar. Entrenched interests challenged the transmission of clean, cheap wind power into our state. Thanks to our work (and your donations), we successfully fought them off.

More importantly, we saw the passage of legislation supporting a shift from coal to renewables.

**HB
734**

A MAJOR LEAP IN ENDING UTILITY DEPENDENCE ON COAL

Was achieved with the passage of House Bill 734. Once signed by Governor Parson, the PSC will be able to consider proposals by electric utilities to convert the value remaining in older plants into a securitized bond. This conversion allows said plants to close faster and without costs being forced upon customers. This is called "securitization" and is used in nearly two dozen other states. After several years, clean energy advocates got the utilities on board. Working together, we moved this over the finish line.

**HB
697**

BANKERS HAVE TRIED TO KILL CLEAN ENERGY FINANCING FOR ABOUT AS LONG AS WE'VE BEEN WORKING ON SECURITIZATION

These special interests see Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing as a competitive threat and introduced legislation to over regulate PACE out of existence. This year, the bankers even got secretly funded "journalists" to go along with their efforts. In the end, concessions were made and some common-sense reform was passed that essentially codified existing consumer protections. House Bill 697 could have been a disaster for customers but ended up being a mild success thanks to our work.



**HB
527**

SPECIAL INTERESTS GROUPS ARGUED THEY KNOW MORE THAN THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

So they spent the last three legislative sessions trying to undo the PSC's decision bestowing utility status on the Grain Belt Express. Grain Belt will deliver wind energy to dozens of municipal utilities throughout the state and produce \$12 million in annual customer savings as well as create 1,500 new jobs. Groups like Farm Bureau have decided that, even though all other utilities can build transmission lines wherever they want, Grain Belt should not. No matter what you think of the transmission line project, Renew Missouri believes any company that jumped through regulatory hoops for five years should have some certainty that the process will actually hold up.

**HB
539**

RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES ARE EAGER TO KILL THE SOLAR INDUSTRY

By pushing for laws that add unnecessary demand fees to solar customers. Their business model is based on being a monopoly and they do not want their customers making their own power. Two bills were introduced this year and Renew Missouri's supporters came out in droves to remind their lawmakers that killing a job-creating industry and wiping out customers' investment in their solar array is bad policy. The legislation died in committee, but the RECs have already vowed to return next year to end solar as we know. Will you be ready when they do?

James Owen
Executive Director

THE RENEW CREW

the team that makes it all possible



JAMES OWEN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

James is Executive Director of Renew Missouri, having served after taking the reins

from co-founder P.J. Wilson in 2017. In addition to handling the day-to-day management of the group, James also oversees fundraising, communication, government relations, and corporate governance. He also serves as an expert witness for the organization in dozens of

cases as well as working with other advocacy groups in Kansas and Kentucky to offer insight and testimony on clean energy throughout the region.

James lives in Columbia with his wife, Claire, and their daughter, Cecile. For fun, he pens a film column for the Columbia Daily-Tribune and is currently writing a non-fiction book about an unsolved murder in Southwest Missouri. (shameless plug: he needs an agent.)



ANDREW LINHARES REGIONAL DIRECTOR & SENIOR COUNSEL

Andrew serves as the Regional Director and Senior Counsel in Renew Missouri's St. Louis office.

Andrew is the State Lead for the Missouri Energy Efficiency for All (EEFA) coalition, which focuses on energy efficiency for affordable multifamily housing and energy equity for disadvantaged communities.

Andrew is also the administrator for Renew STL Solar, a commercial solar group buy program serving the St. Louis region. Since starting the St. Louis office in 2018, Andrew has been settling in to South City. During the pandemic, he played music, learned to barbecue, and enjoyed the outdoors. He and his wife Shannon had their first child last August.



TIM OPITZ COUNSEL

As General Counsel, Tim represents Renew Missouri before the Public Service Commission, in circuit court, appellate work,

litigation over solar rights and ballot initiatives, research, and developing public education.

Tim lives outside of Columbia with his wife, Sabrina, and son, George. They spend their free time outside: checking on the cows, throwing rocks in the pond, or hiking in the woods with their dog, Ruby.



PHILIP FRACICA
REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Philip currently serves as the Regional Director in Renew Missouri’s Kansas City Office. In addition to this role, Philip serves on the Missouri Weatherization Assistance Program Policy Advisory Council to help improve the state’s weatherization program. Over the

past year, his focus turned to rural issues and he will be heading back to Columbia this Summer to work full time on improving rural access to clean energy throughout Missouri. Throughout the pandemic Philip has been raising a kitten named Mac and has been honing his cooking skills.



TORI CHEATHAM
POLICY & OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Tori is Renew’s newest full-time employee. She has her M.S. in Environmental Science from Southern Illinois University: Edwardsville and works in our St. Louis office assisting with

various advocacy efforts including: social media and graphic design, policy research, and coalition building. Tori has lived in St. Louis most of her life. She loves to go camping with her friends and running where she can. She enjoys reading sci-fi novels and painting in her free time.

A SPECIAL THANKS

to our board of directors

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We need to thank our incredible Board of Directors. The following members make our work possible. Renew Missouri’s successful advocacy is directly attributable to their dedication and insight.



reNEW



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