




Austin Energy Resource Plan Update Getting Austin to Quit Coal (for real this time)



Austin Energy Resource, Generation and Climate Protection Plan

- ▶ Plan for how Austin Energy will meet the community's energy needs in the future
- ▶ Carbon-free by 2035
 - 86% carbon-free by year-end 2025
 - 93% carbon-free by year-end 2030
- ▶ Commitment to no new carbon generating assets
- ▶ Retire AE's portion of the Fayette coal plant by the end of 2022 (before that, reduce usage of the plant)
- ▶ Retire Decker gas plant units in 2020 and 2021
- ▶ Local solar goals
- ▶ Energy efficiency goals
- ▶ Energy storage goals



Why Now?

- ▶ In December 2022, the Austin City Council passed a resolution directing Austin Energy to update the Austin Energy Resource, Generation and Climate Protection Plan.
- ▶ The update is happening now because:
 - Austin Energy failed to shut down its portion of the Fayette coal plant by the end of 2022.
 - Austin Energy completed a transmission study that is key to determining if the carbon-free goal established in the current plan can be moved from 2035 to 2030 (or some other date).
 - Federal legislation over the past couple of years has created new and expanded incentives for energy efficiency, solar, wind, and energy storage.
- ▶ The climate crisis is here now, and emissions must be rapidly reduced.



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Fayette Coal Plant

- ▶ Fayette is Austin's biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions (29%) and other air pollution
- ▶ Fayette also ranks among the biggest sources of pollution statewide

Pollutant	Tons in 2021	Rank in TX
CO	6,970	4th
NOx	6,490	2nd
PM10	912	4th
PM2.5	889	4th
SO2	1,117	25th

- ▶ Buried coal ash from Fayette is leaking into groundwater at the site



Fayette, cont.

- ▶ Two of the three units at Fayette are co-owned by Austin Energy and the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA), which is controlled by a board appointed by Gov. Abbott
- ▶ No exit clause in the ownership agreement between Austin Energy and the LCRA, and negotiations to shut down Austin Energy's portion of the plant failed.
 - Austin Energy cites affordability as the barrier but hasn't defined "affordability".
- ▶ Austin City Council does not review expenditures on the plant, unlike for most city expenses over \$65,000.
- ▶ Austin Energy and the LCRA both serve and have equal voting authority on the Fayette Management Committee, which votes on annual budgets and capital expenses for the co-owned units.



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What's Happening

- ▶ In a departure from past practice, Austin Energy says it doesn't need a working group to advise on the update.
- ▶ Electric Utility Commission disagreed and created a Resource Planning Working Group anyway. It includes:
 - Members of the Electric Utility Commission
 - Member of the Resource Management Commission
 - Community members that represent different customer classes and segments of residential customers, including low-income and renters
- ▶ The working group meeting will be open to the public.
- ▶ AustinEUCResourcePlanningWG.org

What You Can Do

- ▶ Attend public meetings and speak about why shutting down Austin's part of the Fayette coal plant needs to be a top priority.
 - Electric Utility Commission (EUC) meetings
 - EUC Resource Planning Working Group Meetings
 - Austin City Council meetings (General Communication)
 - Austin City Council Austin Energy Electric Utility Oversight Committee meetings
- ▶ Email the Austin City Council
- ▶ Share information with your community
- ▶ Show up at events
- ▶ Get your organization(s) to sign on to a letter supporting Fayette retirement (coming later)



Questions?

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