

MICHIGAN 100% RENEWABLE CITIES



Clean, renewable energy is our future and cities are leading the way. Scientists agree that for a stable climate, we need to shift to 100% renewable energy (RE) before mid-century. Moving to 100% RE will bring many benefits. It will make healthier communities for our families, boost local economies, and create jobs. Improving technology and rapidly falling prices make renewables a fiscally responsible choice. For these reasons and more, many communities in Michigan are going 100% renewable.

Clean energy makes a stronger economy & healthier environment

A statewide transition to 100% RE would save the average Michigan family over \$150 in energy costs and \$2,000 in health care costs every year.¹ Moving off fossil fuels would reduce the pollution that triggers asthma attacks and respiratory illnesses, improving quality of life and saving lives. Clean energy also creates good-paying local jobs and makes local economies more resilient. The U.S. solar industry employs over 260,000 people and solar jobs grew 17 times faster than the overall economy in 2016.² And wind energy has led to millions of dollars for rural landowners and increased

tax bases for some rural Michigan counties.³ 100% RE is good for communities and is good for Michigan!

100% is achievable

Research shows it's doable, and cities are already doing it. Peer-reviewed, published studies have found that 100% clean, RE is achievable for the entire U.S. with existing technologies, and will just become easier as storage and other technologies improve. Renewables and efficiency now cost less than any other energy source in Michigan,⁴ and are expanding rapidly. There are large solar arrays now being built by Wolverine Electric Cooperative in Cadillac, the City of Grand Rapids, Lansing Board of Water & Light, Michigan State University, and others.

Cities are leading the way

More than 20 cities in the U.S. already have set or achieved 100% RE goals, as have many more cities around the world. While cities are setting this goal to be leaders in sustainability, they are also compelled by economics. Burlington, Vermont's 100% RE goal was initially driven by economics—the city will save \$20 million over the next decade as a result!

Even entire nations and states are setting 100% RE goals—Hawaii has a 100% by 2045 renewable electricity goal and Costa Rica already is powered by 100% renewable electricity.

Make your community a clean energy leader

Most Americans support more clean energy and care about climate change. Unfortunately, there are serious efforts at the state and federal levels to halt and roll back our clean energy and climate policies. Action at the local level is more important than ever. We can work with our communities, take our future into our own hands, do what is right and move rapidly toward 100% renewable energy.

Traverse City goes all in

Traverse City is a small thriving city built on the shores of the Great Lakes, and a 100% renewable energy (RE) goal helps protect these resources and solidify the city's reputation as a leader in sustainability. Local groups came together in spring of 2016 with the goal of passing a 100% RE goal. They did research to understand how it could be done, then met with the mayor, city commissioners, and electric utility. They also held community events with former Grand Rapids Mayor Heartwell, who led a 100% RE goal there. In December 2016, Traverse City unanimously passed a 100% RE goal for city operations by 2020. This is the first step. A Green Team is also creating a plan to make all of Traverse City run on renewable energy.

Some U.S. Cities with 100% Goals

City	100% By Year
Aspen, CO	Achieved
Burlington, VT	Achieved
Columbia, SC	2020
East Hampton, NY	2030
Georgetown, TX	2017
Grand Rapids, MI	2025
Greenburg, KS	Achieved
Lancaster, CA	2020
Moab, UT	2032
Nassau, NY	2020
Northport, MI	2025
Palo Alto, CA	2017
Park City, UT	2032
Pueblo, CO	2035
Rochester, MN	2031
Salt Lake City, UT	2032
San Diego, CA	2035
San Francisco, CA	2020
San Jose, CA	2022
Santa Monica, CA	2033
Traverse City, MI	2020

602 W. Ionia Street, Lansing, MI 48864
miclimateaction.org | environmentalcouncil.org
climate@miclimateaction.org

¹ Stanford University research:

<http://thesolutionsproject.org/infographic/#mi>

² The Solar Foundation: [http://www.thesolarfoundation.org/solar-](http://www.thesolarfoundation.org/solar-accounts-1-50-new-u-s-jobs-2016/)

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³ <http://midwestenergynews.com/2016/04/12/report-rural-michigan-landowners-net-millions-from-wind-farms/>

⁴ Michigan Public Service Commission:

http://www.michigan.gov/mpsc/0,4639,7-159-16400_17280-376729--,00.html