



Mayor Garcetti, Don't Lock Los Angeles into Dirty Fossil Fuels

Moving from fossil fuels to clean energy will save money, create good jobs and promote healthy communities

Los Angeles is poised to be a global leader on climate action. Yet, L.A. has the worst air quality in the nation, and the city is grappling with a deadly year-round fire season, prolonged droughts and sea level rise, all worsened by climate change. Mayor Garcetti has set ambitious goals for renewable energy and local officials are studying how the nation's largest public utility, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), can transition to 100% renewable energy. Still, LADWP wants to invest as much as \$6 billion ratepayer dollars to rebuild three gas-fired power plants on the Southern California coast in Playa del Rey, Wilmington and Long Beach. This will lock the Los Angeles into relying on fossil fuels to power the electric grid for another 20 to 40 years. It would needlessly raise rates for customers and undermine efforts to move Los Angeles to 100% renewable energy. It's time for Mayor Garcetti to show that he is a true climate leader and make a commitment to ending L.A.'s investment in fossil fuels.

Economic Costs and Job Growth

The investments LADWP makes today to rebuild Los Angeles' aging energy infrastructure can either support clean energy technology and green job growth, or waste ratepayer dollars and take the city away from its 100% renewable energy goals.

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A recent study by Synapse Energy Economics shows investing in 100% renewable energy by 2030 will cost LADWP roughly the same amount as its current plan to rebuild the three coastal gas-fired plants. However, if LADWP decides to build three gas plants for \$6 billion now, and later switches to 100% renewable energy, ratepayers will be saddled with even higher bills. It's cheaper to nix the plan to build gas plants today and instead invest in the transition to a 100% renewable energy future.

A commitment to a 100% renewable energy future will also create good, green jobs in Los Angeles — jobs we should demand be unionized and pay a living wage. Clean energy jobs already outpace fossil fuel jobs in California by more than 8 to 1,¹ with Los Angeles leading the country in total clean energy jobs.² Garcetti should work with labor to ensure a just transition for all workers that prioritizes displaced workers and communities hardest hit by pollution from dirty energy. That includes youth, veterans and workers in poor communities.

The number of fossil fuel jobs remains steady or is declining while jobs in wind energy are growing by 32% and solar jobs are expanding by 25%.³ What's more, the technology to go 100% renewable energy is ready today. If Mayor Garcetti wants to provide opportunities for Angelenos for well-paying, long-term and union jobs, he should hasten the transition to 100% renewable energy.

Health and Climate Impacts of Fossil Fuels

Fossil fuels are dangerous to our communities, workers and climate. Accidents have catastrophic consequences, threatening the lives of workers and families living nearby, while gas plants emit greenhouse gases leading to catastrophic climate change.

Power plants are major emitters of nitrogen oxides which contribute to ground-level ozone, acid rain, and smog. Worse yet, these plants routinely emit carcinogens such as benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylene, and formaldehyde. Beyond increasing the cancer risk, these toxins can lead to blood disorders, asthma, eye irritation, rashes, and damage to the liver, nervous and renal systems.

Rebuilding these gas plants would continue to force surrounding communities, often low-income communities of color, to bear the worst pollution. Mayor Garcetti should address this legacy of environmental racism and eliminate toxic hot spots in communities overburdened by pollution.

It's time for Mayor Garcetti to put his ideals into action: he can lead the way in showing that mayors can solve complex problems like climate change. Tell Garcetti that it's time to end investment in gas-fired power plants and to champion a speedy and just transition to 100% renewable energy.

Sign the petition now by visiting <https://fwwat.ch/LAfor100>

1 https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/theworldpost/wp/2018/01/10/california-jobs/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.99d9bda67a4b

2 <https://www.e2.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Clean-Job-Cities-2018.pdf>

3 <https://www.nrdc.org/experts/lara-ettenson/us-clean-energy-jobs-surpass-fossil-fuel-employment>