

*We acknowledge the Tongva peoples as the traditional land caretakers of Tovaangar (Los Angeles basin, So. Channel Islands) and are grateful to have the opportunity to work for the taraaxatom (Indigenous peoples) in this place. We pay our respects to Honuukvetam (Ancestors), 'Ahihirom (Elders), and 'eyoohiinkem (our relatives/relations) past, present and emerging.*



Dear Mayor Garcetti and Members of City Council,

Now that LADWP has completed its work on the LA100 Study, the hard work begins to finalize the details for a 100% renewable energy future.

Scientists at the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change have stressed that we have less than 10 years to take bold action to avoid the worst of the climate crisis. We urge you to pledge to achieve 100% clean, renewable energy for Los Angeles by 2030, in line with science. If L.A. is going to lead the country on climate action, the city cannot wait any longer to break its dependence on greenhouse gas emitting fuels.

LADWP should not rely on market schemes and unproven technologies like carbon capture or renewable energy credits, which exacerbate the harms faced by environmental justice communities and have not proven to be effective methods for reducing carbon emissions. Nor should biogas, biomass, nuclear energy or other dangerous, polluting sources be counted as renewable. These false solutions would lock Los Angeles into the broken system we have now – one which enriches those at the top of the fossil fuel industry, while contaminating the air and water of our communities.

The LA100 study reinforces the findings of Synapse Energy Economics' 2018 study, which showed the pathway to renewable energy can be achieved in Los Angeles by 2030 not only by replacing fossil fuels with solar, wind and geothermal energy, but also by transforming how our communities use energy to begin with. Synapse's analysis found by investing in energy efficiency to reduce overall load, encouraging demand response programs to reduce the strain of peak hours on the system, and building storage capacity to store and spread solar generation throughout the day, LADWP could meet its 100% clean energy goals.

The LA100 study uplifts these same opportunities as the key to ensuring reliability and affordability, all while investing LADWP resources back into our local communities.

Ensuring an equitable grid requires that transformative solutions like demand response be prioritized over other dirty and expensive alternatives for meeting peak demand. Specifically, the LA100 study points to multi-day demand response as a lower-cost alternative to both biofuels and hydrogen.

Across Los Angeles, older and inefficient buildings result in high bills that force households to decide between paying for utilities or other basic necessities. And renters face a unique challenge as landlords have little incentive to invest in safety or efficiency. These ratepayers form the backbone of our municipal utility, yet are often the last to receive its benefits. Energy efficiency upgrades, home retrofits, smart thermostat programs, and distributed solar offer a clear means of ensuring that ratepayer investments are returning to these communities, all while building grid resiliency and helping to keep costs low as the price of energy goes up. Initiatives could work in conjunction with the City's broader efforts towards a just recovery from COVID-19, especially when partnered with other means of ensuring equity including debt relief, bill stabilization, expansion of low-income payment programs and creating tenant protections from displacement.

Such transformative investments in energy efficiency and other localized solutions will only be possible if paired with transformative community partnership. The recently established Climate Emergency Mobilization Office (CEMO) represents one of the clearest forums for ensuring coordination, collaboration, and leadership from Black, brown, Indigenous and other historically disadvantaged communities. Making a just recovery possible will require that the Mayor's office, City Council and LADWP further commit themselves to supporting the work of the CEMO, providing the financial backing and partnership required in order to achieve its mission.

In order to ensure that workers share fully in the economic benefits of these bold changes, any transition towards a renewable energy system should include local hiring guarantees, pay parity, project labor agreements and other union protections for creating high road jobs – forming the foundation for the thousands of jobs that initiatives in energy efficiency and other forms of building modernization will offer. Such a process must likewise ensure retaining pensions and retraining for workers in the fossil fuel industry. We must find opportunities at each level, from solar and wind manufacturing to job training partnerships.

You have the authority to empower our communities as clean energy leaders by demanding that LADWP transition L.A. to a real, clean energy future by 2030. Take a stand with us and pledge to achieve 100% clean renewable energy by 2030 to create green careers for our workers, restore healthier air, protect our climate, and provide our communities with the resources they need to thrive.

Sincerely,

Maebe A. Girl  
Candidate for Congress, CA-28

Angelica Duenas  
Candidate for Congress, CA-29

Shervin Aazami  
Candidate for Congress, CA-30

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