MISSOURI ENERGY JUSTICE
SNAPSHOT

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People,
Environmental and Climate Justice Program
7/14/2017
Missouri Energy Justice Snapshot

Summary

Access to clean energy is not just an environmental issue, but also a civil right. Communities of color bear a disproportionate share of the burdens of the fossil fuel based energy economy. This is why the NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program stands for just energy policies that will help protect our communities from harmful energy production processes and provide equitable access to clean and renewable energy and the energy economy.

This Snapshot profiles Missouri’s energy portfolio, compares key state energy policies to NAACP recommendations, documents utility disconnection policies, and outlines opportunities in the clean energy economy for Missouri residents of color. As a resource rich state with unique geographic and sociopolitical landscapes, energy is often at the fore of state policy debates. With this in mind, it is critically important that NAACP leaders actively engage in these debates to ensure that our community’s needs motivate just energy policies. This snapshot will provide information that will inform NAACP members on avenues for engagement.

State Energy Profile

The state’s energy consumption per capita is near the national average. The transportation sector is the largest energy-consuming end-use sector in Missouri, followed closely by the residential sector, where more than half of the households heat with natural gas. The industrial sector, which includes agriculture and the manufacture of food products, chemicals, and transportation equipment, accounts for one-fifth of the state's total energy consumption.¹

Energy Portfolio

- The Rockies Express Pipeline (REX) is a 42-inch, 1,679-mile natural gas pipeline stretching from Colorado to Ohio. The REX West portion of the system passes near Kansas City, Missouri, before terminating in northeast Missouri where it interconnects with the REX East pipeline.
- Missouri was the first state west of the Mississippi River to produce coal commercially.
- Coal fueled 83% of Missouri’s net electricity generation in 2014 and 78% in 2015.
- Missouri has one nuclear power plant, Callaway Nuclear Generating Station, which contributed 12.5 percent of the state’s net electricity generation in 2015.
- Renewable energy resources, including conventional and pumped hydroelectric power, accounted for 3.7 percent of Missouri’s net electricity generation in 2015; most of that generation came from conventional hydroelectric power and wind.
- Nine out of 10 Missouri households use a central air-conditioning system, a characteristic more like homes in the South than those in the Midwest, according to EIA’s Residential Energy Consumption Survey.
- Renewable resources currently contribute less than 4% of Missouri’s net electricity generation, but there is considerable renewable energy potential in the state. Missouri’s primary renewable electricity sources are hydroelectric power and wind energy. The state has several pumped
storage facilities and conventional hydroelectric power plants, and there is untapped hydroelectric power potential on the state’s rivers. After the failure of the Taum Sauk pumped storage facility, the Environmental community was against it being rebuilt. It uses more energy than it generates. It should not be called a "renewable source."

- Missouri has 659 megawatts of wind generating capacity online, another 300 megawatts being built, and substantial additional wind energy potential, primarily in the state’s northwest. Small amounts of the state’s net electricity generation come from biomass—mostly wood—and from solar energy.

- Missouri has significant biomass potential from agricultural waste, from municipal solid waste and landfill gas, and from the 14 million acres of forest that cover roughly one-third of the state.

- Electricity generation from solar photovoltaic installations is increasing. Several utility-scale facilities have been built, including a 5.7 megawatt solar farm in O’Fallon, Missouri, but most of the state’s solar generation comes from distributed (customer-sited, small-scale) facilities at both businesses and homes.

- In 2008, Missouri voters approved a mandatory renewable energy standard. The standard requires investor-owned electric utilities to obtain at least of 15% of electricity sales from renewable resources by 2021. The standard also requires that solar energy supply at least 0.3% of total retail electricity sales by 2021. State regulators have implemented cost caps to keep retail electricity rates from rising more than 1% annually because of the mandate.
## State Energy Policies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Type</th>
<th>NAACP Recommended Policy Standards</th>
<th>Missouri Policy Details</th>
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| **Net Metering** | Net Metering Standards require utility companies to provide retail credit for new renewable energy produced by a consumer. | Capacity Limit Recommendation: 100 kW (minimally), per system  
Mandatory/Voluntary: Mandatory |
| **Capacity Limit Recommendation:** | 2,000 kW (minimally), per system |
| **Mandatory/Voluntary:** | Mandatory |
| **Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)** | A RPS requires electric utility companies and other retail electric providers to supply a specific minimum amount of customer load with electricity from eligible renewable energy sources. | **Recommended Standard:** Minimally 25% renewable by 2025  
Mandatory/Voluntary: Mandatory  
Allowable Sources: Wind, solar, geothermal, ocean/wave energy |
| **Recommended Standard:** | Minimally 15% by 2021  
Mandatory/Voluntary: Mandatory |
| **Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS)** | A EERS establish a requirement for utility companies to meet annual and cumulative energy savings targets through a portfolio of energy efficiency programs. | **Recommended Standard:** 1.9% of electricity by 2020  
Mandatory/Voluntary: Voluntary |
| **Recommended Standard:** | Minimally 2% annual reduction of each previous year’s retail electricity sales  
Mandatory/Voluntary: Mandatory |
| **Local Hire Provision** | • Extra renewable energy credit multipliers for in-state installation and in-state manufactured content  
• Renewable energy credits for utility providing incentives to build a plant in-state  
• Renewable energy credit for utility that makes an investment in a plant located in-state  
• Quota for government assisted construction project employers to hire a percentage of workers locally  
• Bidding Preferences for companies that hire a percentage of their employees in-state for state-funded public works projects and service contracts  
• Business Energy Investment Tax Credit (ITC)  
• Residential Renewable Energy Tax Credit  
• Energy Efficiency Commercial Building Tax Deduction  
• Ameren Missouri BizSavers Program  
• Missouri Department of Transportation certifies firms for participation in the federally mandated Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program. The DBE program is intended to provide contracting opportunities to small businesses owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals. |
| **Disadvantaged Business Enterprise** | • Provide training opportunities  
• Notify DBEs of state business opportunities  
• Set-aside funds for DBEs | |

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Utility Disconnection Policies

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<tr>
<td>Notice</td>
<td>Written notice may be mailed or delivered in person. If mailed, the notice must be sent at least ten days before the scheduled disconnection. If delivered, the notice must be given at least 96 hours before the scheduled disconnection. Utility must attempt to contact the customer at least 24 hours before the scheduled disconnection through a written notice, posting on the property, or two phone calls. Employee must attempt personal contact at time of disconnection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Based Protection</td>
<td>Yes. November 1–March 31 no disconnections with entry into a payment plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temperature Based Protection</td>
<td>Yes. No disconnections on a day or day before the temperature is below 32ºF. No disconnections on a day or day before the temperature is above 95º.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Payment Plan</td>
<td>Yes. Initial payment may not exceed 12% of twelve-month bill amount for a customer who has not defaulted on a winter protection period payment plan. Initial payment must be 80% of the customer’s balance for a customer who has defaulted on a winter protection period payment plan.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reconnection Fee</td>
<td>Yes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disconnection Limitations</td>
<td>None.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Protections</td>
<td>Postponement of disconnection for twenty-one days with medical certification.</td>
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Access to energy is not a luxury, it’s a necessity. With exposure to both extreme heat and extreme cold, folks should not be forced to choose between paying for medications or their energy bill. Public officials have implemented some policies that protect consumers from the life-threatening practice of utility disconnection (As outlined to the left). However, energy justice advocates must continue to hold utility companies and regulators accountable to human rights and basic but life-saving protections.

More disconnection policy details are available at the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program State Disconnection Policies webpage: [https://liheapch.acf.hhs.gov/Disconnect/disconnect.htm](https://liheapch.acf.hhs.gov/Disconnect/disconnect.htm)

Action steps: Meet with the Public Utilities Commission or your local utility company to advocate for the adoption of the following:

- Temperature based protections
- Restriction on reconnection and disconnection fees
- Expanded protection for vulnerable populations

Utility shut-offs have a disproportionate impact on low-income and African American communities. Check out the NAACP report, “Lights Out in the Cold” for more information.
Hot Topics, Issues and Developments

Wal-Mart and other companies back Missouri bill to allow power-purchase agreements: A bill to permit large electricity customers to bypass their utility and purchase power directly from a renewable generator was before the Missouri General Assembly for the third consecutive year. The bill would have allowed utilities to seek compensation for moving electricity from the renewable generator to the contract customer. It states that utilities may charge a fee based on the cost of providing transmission, distribution, monthly capacity, administrative services and any actual power needed in excess of that provided by the renewable generator. The bill did not pass.

Bill backed by Missouri co-ops would have allowed new limitations on net metering: Missouri’s electric cooperative association was promoting legislation that would make a raft of changes that could render net metering less available and more costly. Although being advanced by the state’s rural electric cooperatives, the proposed changes seemingly would apply broadly to Missouri’s electric-power sector. One of the bill’s measures would exempt from net-metering requirements all utilities that serve fewer than 20,000 meters. One clean-energy advocate estimated that that might amount to about 20 percent of the state’s electricity customers. The Missouri State Conference of the NAACP opposed the bill. The bill did not pass.

Missouri high court to ruled on decision that undermined renewable portfolio standard: Ameren is currently meeting much of its share of Missouri’s renewable energy standard with electricity from this century-old dam in Iowa. Missouri’s high court will heard arguments today as to whether the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules “JCAR” violated the Constitution and the will of the voters when it decided in 2010 to remove two clauses from rules implementing Proposition C. Prop C, which passed with 66 percent of the vote in 2008, instituted a renewable energy standard requiring that the state’s two largest investor-owned utilities gradually convert a small portion of their generation from fossil-fueled plants to renewable sources of energy. The Court let stand JCARs obstruction of the state’s renewable portfolio standard.

Missouri regulator approves major utility’s community solar plan: Community solar, already growing in popularity among Missouri’s rural electric cooperatives, now is coming to the state’s largest investor-owned utility. The Missouri Public Service Commission last week approved Ameren Missouri’s proposal to build one, and possibly two, 500-kilowatt solar arrays. Ameren’s residential and small-business customers will have the option of tapping the community array for as much as half of the energy they use.
DEVELOPING THE BLACK-GREEN PIPELINE

African Americans are inadequately represented in the clean energy sector. It is the goal of the NAACP Black-Green Pipeline Initiative that African Americans will have increased representation across all sectors of the clean energy economy. The Black-Green Pipeline Initiative promotes the equitable inclusion of communities of color into the green economy in order to address unemployment in our communities and to increase the voices and influence of our communities in the green economy.

Opportunities in Energy

The 2017 U.S. Energy and Employment Report (USEER) finds that the traditional and energy efficiency sectors today employ approximately 6.4 million Americans. These sectors increased in 2016 by just under 5 percent, adding over 300,000 net new jobs, roughly 14 percent of all those created in the country. The 2017 USEER analyzes four sectors of the U.S. economy:

- Electric Power Generation and Fuels
- Transmission, Distribution and Storage
- Energy Efficiency
- Motor Vehicles

The first two of those sectors make up the traditional energy sector. The Report provides a quantitative lens with which to evaluate the employment impact of new energy technologies, shifting fuels deployment, and evolving transmission and distribution systems:

- Electric power generation and fuels technologies directly employ more than 1.9 million workers.
- In 2016, 55 percent, or 1.1 million, of these employees worked in traditional coal, oil, and gas, while almost 800,000 workers were employed in low carbon emission.
- Generation technologies, including renewable, nuclear, and advanced/low emission natural gas.
- Just under 374,000 individuals work, in whole or in part, for solar firms, with more than 260,000 of those employees spending the majority of their time on solar. There are an additional 102,000 workers employed at wind firms across the nation. The solar workforce increased by 25 percent in 2016, while wind increased by 32 percent.

- Missouri has a low concentration of energy employment, with 45,630 Traditional Energy workers statewide. 7,782 of these workers are in the Fuels sector, 28,536 work in Transmission, Wholesale Distribution, and Storage, and 9,312 workers are employed in Electric Power Generation. 1.4% of the Traditional Energy jobs across the U.S. are located in Missouri. The traditional energy sector in Missouri is 1.7% of total state employment (compared to 2.4% of national employment). Missouri has an additional 37,834 jobs in Energy Efficiency (1.7% of all energy efficiency jobs nationwide) and 70,140 in motor vehicles (2.9% of all motor vehicle jobs nationwide).
Given that communities of color have the most to lose with the disproportionate impact of climate change, correspondingly those communities should have the most to gain from the green economy to balance the effect, decrease economically based vulnerability, and increase resilience. This can be achieved by advancing and improving legislation related to green jobs and availability of contracts and also on implementation by facilitating access to programs that ensure that African Americans are getting green contracts and green jobs. Also this will ensure the development of communities of colors, own definition of green jobs including setting standards of equity and safety.

Although racial diversity has increased in other fields over the past several decades, racial diversity in environmental organizations and agencies has stagnated, with only about 14 percent of the workforce consisting of people of color. This includes a number of energy-focused organizations. Environmental organizations are not adequately reaching out to organizations representing communities of color for recruitment.\textsuperscript{xiv}

The Green Energy Economy would create jobs in green renewable generation installation, weatherization/energy efficiency, thermal energy auditing, insulation, and more. With more than 9.6 percent of African Americans still unemployed it is time to take action and create a Green Collar revolution which provides opportunities for all to access living wages and pathways to self-determination and economic wellbeing.

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**Unemployment Statistics**

In 2015 the gap between the U.S. unemployment rate and the rate for African Americans was 4.3 percentage points. In Missouri, the unemployment rate in 2015 for African Americans was 5.6 percentage points above the state average.

\begin{itemize}
  \item 2015 National Unemployment Rate: 5.3 \%
  \item 2015 Missouri Unemployment Rate: 4.4 \%
  \item 2015 National African American Unemployment Rate: 9.6 \%
  \item 2015 Missouri African American Unemployment Rate: 10.0 \%
\end{itemize}

**Action step:** Host a Bridge the Gap: Connecting Black Communities to the Green Economy Program to establish working groups with existing organizations to increase African American engagement with local green economy.
Missouri NAACP leaders released the Missouri Just Energy Policies Report, which among other things evaluates the state of Missouri’s key clean energy policies and advocates for the focal policies outlined in this snapshot. Missouri NAACP branches have been environmental justice leaders in their respective communities, engaging with local coalitions of likeminded advocates and championing the NAACP energy justice platform. Listed below are avenues for continued engagement:

**Host a Bridging the Gap: Connecting Black Communities to the Green Economy Roundtable**

- The NAACP ECJ Program is committed to advancing a meaningful dialogue and concerted action on engagement of communities of color in the green economy.
- To start taking action, organize a multi-stakeholder roundtable with socially responsible energy business leaders, historically black colleges and universities, environmental groups, civil rights organizations, labor unions, and others to discuss developing and implementing a strategy to ensure that policies/laws/regulation, research initiatives, community level practices, corporate social responsibility measures, etc. are in place to ensure greater engagement of communities of color in the green economy.

**Implement a demonstration project such as a community solar garden or rooftop solar project**

- Interested in taking a direct role in implementing clean energy practices in your community? Install rooftop solar or community solar.
- There are several rebates and incentives available to Missourians interested in pursuing renewable energy projects. Visit energy.gov for a list of renewable energy incentive program available on the state and federal levels.
- You can also check out funding opportunities offered through the Department of Energy SunShot Initiative, which aims to support solar energy adoption by making solar energy accessible to all Americans.

**Launch a Just Energy Policies Campaign**

- Identify one or more of the focal policies outlined in this snapshot and documented more extensively in the Just Energy Policies to champion.
- Build a coalition with likeminded energy justice advocates and other local and state allies to build power and momentum.
- Host a town-hall to educate the community about the policy and get input from members on their needs, priorities, and perspectives.
- Launch an intentional campaign to advocate that Missourians adopts the recommended policy standard.
- Set up lobby trainings and coordinate a lobby-day with elected officials.

**Make public the NAACP energy justice platform and engage the public through media**

- Develop and place an op-ed by NAACP Unit President or ECJ Chair in a local newspaper
- Participate in a radio interview, TV interview, podcast
- Be quoted in a local newspaper
- Post an article or blog to an online platform
CLOSING

Missouri residents have the opportunity to strengthen partnerships with other governmental agencies and other organizations, to have effective and sustainable social change in regards to Environmental Justice, specifically Energy Justice within the state of Missouri.

Missouri’s residents of color are disproportionately exposed to toxins in their environment, as well as neglected and discriminated. Building capacity in disproportionately burdened communities, and promoting collaborative problem-solving for issues involving environmental justice is critical for the future of communities of color in the state. Missouri has the potential to be a clean energy leader in the U.S., but first the state must address the fact they rank first in the Midwest for greenhouse gas emissions per capita.

Embracing a transition to clean, renewable energy sources will not only provide significant environmental and health benefits for the people of Missouri, but will also diversify and strengthen the state’s economy. While the state has significant renewable energy potential, state policies have not incentivized the growth of renewable energy. NAACP just energy leaders should advocate on behalf of a strong Renewable Portfolio Standard, Energy Efficiency Resource Standard, Net Metering standards, Local Hire Provisions, and Minority Business Enterprise Programs. Our communities have the potential to be key leaders facilitating a just transition to clean, renewable, locally owned and controlled energy.

Missouri Green Organizations

**Sierra Club, MO Chapter** - Retiring coal plants; Expanding wind and solar energy; Increasing energy efficiency especially through utility companies; Improving management at the Ozark National Scenic Riverways.

**Environment Missouri** - is the state environmental group-protecting the places we love, advancing the environmental values we share, and winning real results for our environment. [http://www.environmentmissouri.org/page/about-us-5](http://www.environmentmissouri.org/page/about-us-5)

**Environment Missouri Research & Policy Center** - Clean water to drink and clean air to breathe; healthy beaches, lakes and rivers that are safe for swimming and fishing; preserved open spaces; clean sources of energy that don’t pollute and never run out — all this should be the heritage we leave to future generations. Our staff research the issues, educate the public, and win tangible results. [http://www.environmentmissouricenter.org/page/moc/about](http://www.environmentmissouricenter.org/page/moc/about)

**The Missouri Coalition for the Environment (MCE)** - The Missouri Coalition for the Environment (MCE) is Missouri’s independent, citizens’ environmental organization for clean water, clean air, clean energy, and a healthy environment. [http://www.moenvironment.org/about-us/who-are-we](http://www.moenvironment.org/about-us/who-are-we)

**350KC** - A global grassroots movement that is working to connect the Kansas City community with environmental groups and volunteer work parties through sustainable practices. [http://world.350.org/kansascity/](http://world.350.org/kansascity/)

**Bridging the Gap** - Environmental education and action through volunteers, including recycling, tree stewardship, urban prairie restoration, litter abatement and beautification, and business sustainability. [http://www.moenvironment.org/get-involved/green-groups-in-missouri](http://www.moenvironment.org/get-involved/green-groups-in-missouri)

**Citizens’ Climate Lobby** - Lobby Congress to enact a revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend that returns all revenue equally to households. [http://www.moenvironment.org/get-involved/green-groups-in-missouri](http://www.moenvironment.org/get-involved/green-groups-in-missouri)

**Great Rivers Environmental Law Center** - A nonprofit, public interest 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to providing free and reduced-fee public interest legal services to individuals and organizations working to protect and preserve the environment.

**Missouri Environmental Education Association** - Our Vision is an environmentally responsible citizenry in Missouri. Our Mission is to help educators inspire Missourians to care about, understand and act for their environment.

**Missouri Interfaith Power & Light** - Seeks to illuminate global warming as a social justice concern; the poorest among us will be the ones most affected by the climate-induced heat waves, floods, famines, and droughts. [http://www.moipl.org/](http://www.moipl.org/)

**Missouri Solar Energy Industries Association** - Strengthens industry-monitoring legislative and regulatory affairs. Provide professional development and networking opportunities. Establish a sustainable energy future for all Missourians—collaborate with stakeholder groups, monitoring legislative and regulatory affairs.

**Renew Missouri** - Getting Missouri’s renewable energy standard ("Proposition C") implemented; Getting all Missouri utilities to offer best-practices efficiency programs and implementing other effective policies that result in the rapid adoption of efficiency and renewable in Missouri.

**Show Me Solar** - Educational outreach and advocacy leading to greater adoption of solar living.
July 14, 2017

Created by the NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
4805 Mt. Hope Drive, Baltimore, MD 21215
(410) 580-5777
ecjp@naacpnet.org
www.naacp.org

Contributing Authors:
Marnese Jackson, NAACP
Marcus Franklin, NAACP Editor
Bruce Morrison, NAACP Missouri State Conference Environmental and Climate Justice Chairperson, Editor

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