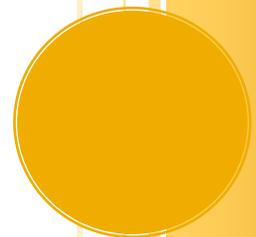


# IOWA ENERGY JUSTICE SNAPSHOT



National Association for the Advancement of Colored People,  
Environmental and Climate Justice Program



# IOWA 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 Iowa's energy portfolio, compares key state energy policies to NAACP recommendations, documents utility disconnection policies, and outlines opportunities in the clean energy economy for Iowa 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

Iowa Energy Profile focuses on foundational pillars of Economic Development, Energy Careers, Energy efficiency and Conservation. These identified pillars will impact Iowa's energy economy. Within the energy landscape, the state will focus on technology-based research and develop, workshop development, support for Rural and Underserved Areas, Biomass Natural Gas Expansion in Underserved areas, Electric Grid Moderation and Alternative Fuel Vehicle.

## Energy Portfolio<sup>i</sup>

- Iowa is the largest producer of ethanol in the United States, and it had 27.3 percent of the nation's fuel ethanol operating capacity in 2015.
- The heavy use of liquefied petroleum gases (LPG) in the industrial sector and in the residential sector contributes to Iowa's ranking of fifth among the states in LPG consumption in 2013.
- In 2015, 53 percent of Iowa's net electricity generation was fueled by coal, down from 59% in 2014.
- In 2015, Iowa was ranked second among the states in net electricity generation from wind and third among the states in the amount of net electricity generated from all non-hydroelectric renewable energy resources.
- Wind provided 31.3 percent of Iowa's total electricity generation in 2015, a larger share than any other state. Wind was second only to coal as an energy source for electricity generation in the state.

## Iowa Energy Policies

**Iowa Code 476.6(17):** Incorporation of energy efficiency into the planning process is authorized by and the Board's rules for energy efficiency planning are found at Iowa Administrative Code 199-35(476). Energy efficiency planning is not required on an annual basis, but is scheduled by order of the Board (199-35.4). Energy efficiency plans are required to cover a 5-year budget timeframe. Electric plans are required to include a 20-year energy needs forecast (199-35.9) and natural gas utilities are required to include a 5-year forecast (199-35.10).

Iowa has what some consider to be equivalent to an EEPS, but unlike other states where the targets are mandated, Iowa's approach provides more flexibility. Under the authority of Iowa Code 476.6(17), the Board has promulgated rules in Iowa Administrative Code 199-35 for utility energy efficiency programs. Rate-regulated utilities are required to submit an assessment of energy usage and potential savings to the IUB but there is no hard targets mandated for what level of savings are required, though once targets have been approved for a utility they are required to meet them. The IUB considers energy efficiency to be a top priority (199-35).

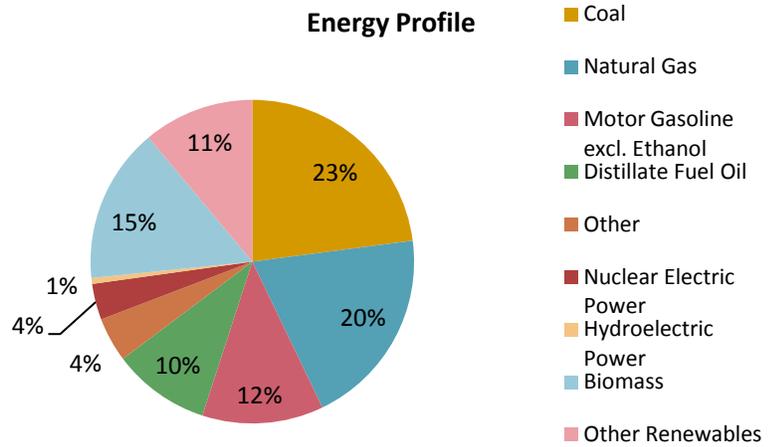


Figure 1. Iowa Energy Consumption Profile

**Renewable vs. Non-Renewable Energy**

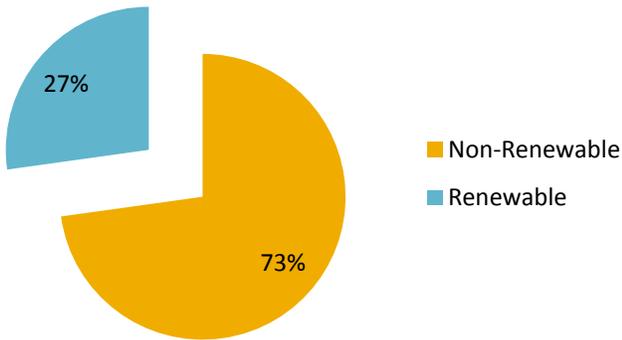


Figure 2. Renewable vs. Non Renewable Energy consumption in Iowa

**Renewable Portfolio**

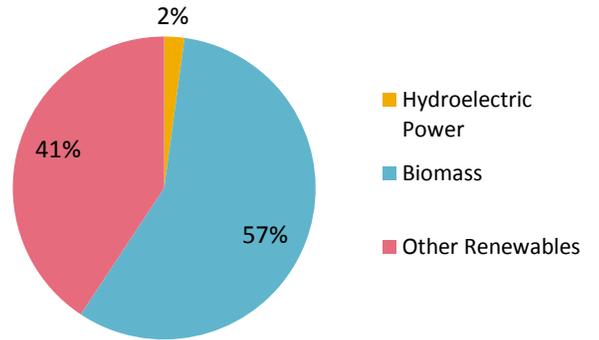


Figure 3. Iowa Renewable Energy Consumption Portfolio

For more detailed information and data on Iowa's energy portfolio visit the U.S. Energy Information Administration's webpage:  
<http://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=IA>

## State Energy Policies

Policy Type	NAACP Recommended Policy Standards	Iowa Policy Details
<b>Net Metering</b>	<p>Net Metering Standards require utility companies to provide retail credit for new renewable energy produced by a consumer.</p> <p><b>Capacity Limit Recommendation:</b> 2,000 kW (minimally), per system  <b>Mandatory/Voluntary:</b> Mandatory</p>	None.
<b>Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)</b>	<p>A RPS requires electric utility companies and other retail electric providers to supply a specific minimum among of customer load with electricity from eligible renewable energy sources.</p> <p><b>Recommended Standard:</b> Minimally 25% renewable by 2025  <b>Mandatory/Voluntary:</b> Mandatory  <b>Allowable Sources:</b> Wind, solar, geothermal, ocean/wave energy</p>	<p><b>Recommended Standard:</b> 105MW in 2013<sup>ii</sup></p> <p><b>Mandatory/Voluntary:</b> N/A</p>
<b>Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS)</b>	<p>A EERS establish a requirement for utility companies to meet annual and cumulative energy savings targets through a portfolio of energy efficiency program.</p> <p><b>Recommended Standard:</b> Minimally 2% annual reduction of each previous year’s retail electricity sales.  <b>Mandatory/Voluntary:</b> Mandatory</p>	None.
<b>Local Hire Provision</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extra renewable energy credit multipliers for in-state installation and in-state manufactured content</li> <li>• Renewable energy credits for utility providing incentives to build a plant in-state</li> <li>• Renewable energy credit for utility that makes an investment in a plate located in-state</li> <li>• Quota for government assisted construction project employers to hire a percentage of workers locally</li> <li>• Bidding Preferences for companies that hire a percentage of their employees in-state for state-funded public works projects and service contracts</li> </ul>	None
<b>Disadvantaged Business Enterprise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide training opportunities</li> <li>• Notify DBEs of state business opportunities</li> <li>• Set-aside funds for DBEs</li> </ul>	<p>IDOT 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.</p>

## Utility Disconnection Policies

<b>Notice</b>	Written notice must be provided twelve days before the scheduled disconnection. For customers billed more frequently than once per month, an additional notice must be posted 24 hours before the scheduled disconnection.
<b>Date Based Protection</b>	Yes. November 1–April 1 no disconnections for low-income customers.
<b>Temperature Based Protection</b>	None.
<b>Payment Plan</b>	Yes.
<b>Reconnection Fee</b>	Yes. Also allowed to charge for disconnection of services. Fees may be higher for reconnection in evenings or on weekends.
<b>Disconnection Limitations</b>	Disconnections may take place between the hours of 6:00am-2:00pm Monday–Thursday
<b>Other Protections</b>	Disconnection postponed for thirty days with medical certification and entry into a payment plan.  For households where a head of the household is a service member deployed for military service, no disconnections are allowed during the deployment and for ninety days after the deployment.
<p><i>Utility shut-offs have a disproportionate impact on low-income and African American communities. Check out the <a href="#">NAACP report</a>, “Lights Out in the Cold” for more information.</i></p>	



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>

**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

## Hot Topics, Issues and Developments

**In Feb 2017, Judge rules against Iowa landowners taking on Dakota Access:** A Polk County judge rejected arguments Wednesday from 14 landowners in Iowa who contended that builders of the Dakota Access pipeline shouldn't have been allowed to use eminent domain powers to route the underground line through their property against their will. The pipeline starts in North Dakota and ends at a distribution hub in Illinois, crossing 18 Iowa counties on its way. Despite continued protests and court actions over a missing link in North Dakota as the route crosses the Missouri River, the pipeline is otherwise mostly done — including having been built already on the land owned by the 14 seeking a court to intervene. However, District Court Judge Jeffrey Farrell ruled the case is not moot because the line had yet to carry any oil. Some landowners argued the pipeline would damage tile drainage systems on their farms, and their attorney asked for it to be removed.<sup>iii</sup>



Banner that reads “Farmers Against the Pipeline” before a public hearing about the Dakota Access pipeline before the Iowa Utilities Board at the Boone County Fairground in Boone on Nov. 12, 2015.

Source: Stephen Nally, the Gazette



**Iowa utility's plan preserves net metering, but raises a red flag for solar supporters—A recent ruling by Iowa regulators has the clean-energy community worried that nearly a half-million customers in the state could find solar power to be financially unworkable as a result.** On Feb. 3, the Iowa Utilities Board arrived at an important juncture in its long-running [review](#) of its policy regarding distributed generation. Three years after launching the study, the board continued to move pilot projects proposed by the state's two major utilities, MidAmerican Energy and Alliant Energy forward and ordered them to modify the proposals in the form of revised tariffs. While several solar-energy advocates are pleased that the tariffs seem to reaffirm the fundamentals that underlie net metering, and are satisfied overall with MidAmerican's revised pilot tariff, they have concerns about one important aspect of Alliant's tariff. The major point of contention in the new pilot projects is the way in which the utilities define a customer's “load.” MidAmerican defined it as a customer's total energy use over the course of a year. Alliant defined it as the peak demand on the grid at any given moment over a year. The meaning of “load” is critical because the policies allow self-generating customers to net meter up to one megawatt or 100 percent of their load, whichever is smaller. Any production in excess of that could be sold back to the local utility for a price far below the retail, or net-metering, rate.<sup>iv</sup>

## 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.

To subscribe to the Black-Green Pipeline Initiative Weekly Digest send a blank email to: [naacp-bgp-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:naacp-bgp-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

### 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 employment increased by 32 percent.<sup>v</sup>

Iowa has an average concentration of energy employment, with 31,983 traditional energy workers statewide. 10,755 of these workers are in the fuels sector, 11,591 in transmission, wholesale distribution, and storage, and 7,636 workers are employed in electric power generation. The traditional power sector is 1.0 percent of total state employment, compared to 2.4 percent nationally. Iowa has an additional 18,845 jobs in energy efficiency, 0.9 percent of all energy efficiency jobs nationwide.<sup>vi</sup>

Energy Sector Employment in Iowa

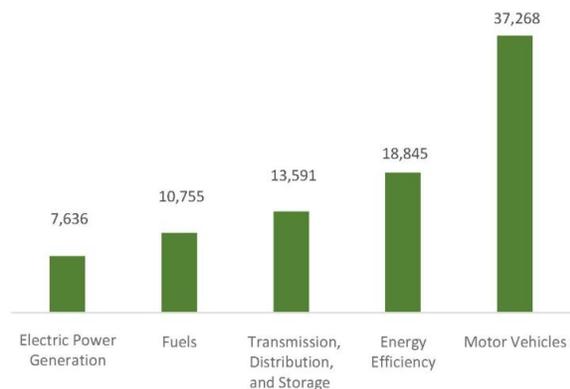


Figure 5. Energy Sector Employment by Major Technology

## The Green Labor Market and Communities of Color

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. 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 color's 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.<sup>vii</sup>

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.

### **Unemployment Statistics**

In 2015 the gap between the U.S. unemployment rate and the rate for African Americans was 4.3 percentage points. In Iowa, the unemployment rate in 2015 for African Americans was 11.5 percentage points above the state average.

**2015 National Unemployment Rate: 5.3%**

**2015 Iowa Unemployment Rate: 3.5%**

**2015 National African American Unemployment Rate: 9.6%**

**2015 Iowa African American Unemployment Rate: 14.8%**

### **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.

## TAKE ACTION

**Iowa** residents have the opportunity to strengthen its partnerships with other governmental agencies, such as other Federal agencies and State, Tribal, or local governments, in order to have effective and sustainable Social Change in regards to Environmental Justice, specifically Energy Justice within the state of Iowa. **Iowa** residents are exposed to disproportionate toxic exposures, as well as neglect and discrimination. Building capacity in disproportionately burdened communities, and promoting collaborative problem-solving for issues involving environmental justice. With that being said, it is time to be organize, mobilize and take action to create a more Energy Sovereignty landscape within the state of Iowa.

### 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 Nevadans interested in pursuing renewable energy projects. Visit [energy.gov](http://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 advocating that Alaska 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

Iowa residents have the opportunity to strengthen its 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 Iowa.

Iowa'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. Iowa 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 Iowa, 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.



## Iowa Green Organizations

[1000 Friends of Iowa](#)

[American Institute of Architects, Iowa Chapter](#)

[BNIM Architects](#)

[Blank Park Zoo](#)

[Bur Oak Land Trust](#)

[Cedar Rapids/Linn County Solid Waste Agency](#)

[Citizens' Climate Lobby Iowa](#)

[Citizens for a Healthy Iowa](#)

[Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines](#)

[Conservation Corps Iowa & Minnesota](#)

[Conservation Districts of Iowa](#)

[Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County](#)

[Dallas County Environmental Health Department](#)

[Des Moines Audubon Society](#)

[Drake Environmental Law Society](#)

[Earth Made Clean](#)

[East Okoboji Lakes Improvement Corporation](#)

[Environmental Advocates](#)

[Environmental Law and Policy Center](#)

[First Unitarian Church of Des Moines](#)

[Friends of Neil Smith National Wildlife Refuge](#)

[Impact7G](#)

[Iowa Association of Naturalists](#)

[Iowa Association of Water Agencies](#)

[Iowa Audubon](#)

[Iowa Chapter of the American Fisheries Society](#)

[Iowa Farmers Union](#)

[Iowa Groundwater Association](#)

[Iowa Interfaith Power & Light](#)

[Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation](#)

[Iowa Onsite Wastewater Association](#)

[Iowa Policy Project](#)

[Iowa Prairie Network](#)

[Iowa Renewable Energy Association](#)

[Iowa Rivers Revival](#)

[Iowa Solar Energy Trade Association](#)

[Iowa Waste Reduction Center](#)

[Iowa Whitewater Coalition](#)

[Iowa's County Conservation System](#)

[Izaak Walton League of America, Des Moines](#)

[Chapter](#)

[Izaak Walton League of America, Iowa Division](#)

[Lake MacBride Conservancy](#)

[Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture](#)

[Metro Waste Authority](#)

[Polk County Public Works, Air Quality Division](#)

[Polk County Conservation Board](#)

[Practical Farmers of Iowa](#)

[Prairie Meadows](#)

[Prairie Rivers of Iowa RC&D](#)

[Raccoon River Watershed Association](#)

[Red Rock Lake Association](#)

[Sioux County Soil & Water Conservation District](#)

[Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#)

[Spirit Lake Protective Association](#)

[State Hygienic Laboratory at the University of Iowa](#)

[Sustainable Iowa Land Trust](#)

[Trees Forever](#)

[US Green Building Council, Iowa Chapter](#)

[Waste Commission of Scott County](#)

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**Created by the NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program**

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<sup>i</sup> <http://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=WV#tabs-2>

<sup>ii</sup> [https://powersuite.aee.net/portal/states/IA/energy\\_policies](https://powersuite.aee.net/portal/states/IA/energy_policies)

<sup>iii</sup> <http://www.thegazette.com/subject/news/government/judge-rules-against-iowa-landowners-taking-on-dakota-access-20170215>

<sup>iv</sup> <http://midwestenergynews.com/2017/02/14/iowa-utilities-plan-preserves-net-metering-but-raises-a-red-flag-for-solar-supporters/>

<sup>v</sup> <https://energy.gov/downloads/2017-us-energy-and-employment-report>

<sup>vi</sup> <https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2016/03/f30/U.S.%20Energy%20and%20Employment%20Report.pdf>

<sup>vii</sup> Taylor, Dorceta E. "The state of diversity in environmental organizations: Mainstream NGOs, foundations & government agencies." *Green 2.0 Working Group* (2014).