



## Newsletter

First Quarter - January 2019

### Legislative Update: Coalition Prepares to Defend Rooftop Solar

By Lane Boldman, [Kentucky Conservation Committee](#), Executive Director

Pro-solar advocacy groups have been working on their strategy to prepare for both pro- and anti-solar legislation during this very short 30-day legislative session. The session began on January 8, where lawmakers met for just four days and are now in a recess till February 5<sup>th</sup>. The coalition of advocacy groups, including KYSES, have been preparing information for both the public and lawmakers to make the case for solar jobs, solar choice, and have been compiling solar success stories to demonstrate how solar is working for all Kentuckians.

While the coalition has been preparing in anticipation of another “net metering rollback” bill similar to last year, there has also been one “pro-solar” bill that was filed by Representative Reggie Meeks of Louisville just before the first week of the Legislative Session concluded.

While we are glad to see this unanticipated bill ([HB146](#)) promoting third-party leasing, analysis from Earth Tools and the Kentucky Conservation Committee have flagged some issues to improve this bill, and KCC will be working with the sponsor to address those issues ([See KCC analysis of HB146 here](#)). If you have any comments on improvements to this legislation, please feel free to [contact KCC](#).

In the meantime, the coalition is continuing to meet to prepare for the session when it resumes on February 5<sup>th</sup>, and is planning a Solar Lobby Day in Frankfort on February 28<sup>th</sup> to continue to advocate for renewable energy in Kentucky. **Let's show our legislators that solar is working for all Kentuckians and ensure that our utilities do, too.**

If you would like to attend, please register in advance by [filling out this form](#). If you already know who your legislators are, you can add that information under “location.” If you would like to know how to find your legislator, [click here](#).



This event is hosted by solar advocates including; Kentucky Student Environmental Coalition, Mountain Association for Community Economic Development, Kentucky Conservation Committee, Kentucky Interfaith Power and Light, Sierra Club, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, Kentucky Solar Energy Society, Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky, Earth Tools, Community Farm Alliance and Solar Kentucky.

## Update on Louisville Resolution for 100% Renewable Energy

By Wallace McMullen, KySES Chair, Solar Over Louisville Chair

During the “Rise for Climate, Jobs, and Justice” September rally in Louisville, a “**Resolution For 100% Clean Energy for Metro Louisville**” was presented to Louisville’s Metro Council President David James. (Resolution sponsors included Solar Over Louisville). President James formally introduced the resolution as its sponsor, and referred it to the Metro Council’s Parks and Sustainability Committee, which has conducted two hearings on the resolution.

The Resolution is pretty inspirational, and sets a goal of Metro Louisville operating on 100% renewable energy by 2030.

Some excerpts:

**Whereas** overwhelming scientific evidence affirms the existence of climate change and that the primary cause of climate change is human combustion of fossil fuels;

**Whereas** there is no credible path to a safe climate that includes continued long-term combustion of fossil fuels;

**Whereas** Louisville wishes to take full advantage of the new 21<sup>st</sup> century energy economy;

**Whereas** a just transition to 100% renewable energy will create family-sustaining jobs;

**Be it resolved** that Louisville Metro government will support a goal of 100% renewable energy by the year 2030 for the operations of Metro government.

**And be it further resolved** that Louisville Metro government will establish an inclusive Climate Action Planning process within the next year and will incorporate solar photo-voltaic systems into all new construction of city-owned property henceforth.

The ‘Rise For Climate/100% Clean Energy’ coalition is circulating a petition supporting this Resolution. If you are part of a Louisville organization which supports the goals of this resolution, you can sign-on in support.

Or, Louisville readers, please sign our petition individually [here](#). We will submit an impressive long scroll with all the signatures to the metro council. Over 700 people have already signed the petition to date.

We hope that if this Resolution is passed, it will incentivize a lot of solar system installations in Louisville, and serious examination of importing wind-generated electricity from Illinois and Indiana.

## PROGRESS

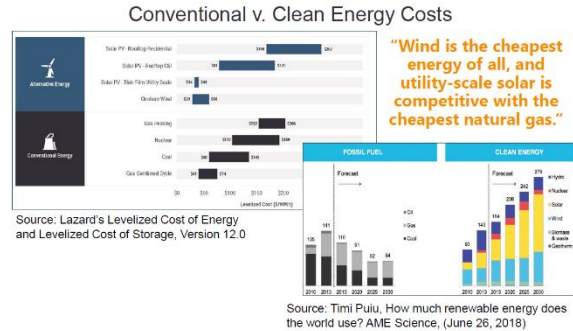
We have now had two hearing before the Metro Council's Parks and Sustainability Committee. We presented powerful testimony at both hearings.

A video recording of the entire Nov. 29 hearing is [here](#). Our speaker, Nancy Givens, gives an excellent presentation. (It begins at 13 minutes into the meeting - fast forward to that point.) Nancy was a founding member of the KY Solar Energy Society. Her presentation slides without verbal presentation are [here](#).

A newspaper article about the Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> hearing is [here](#), for further context. The December hearing was largely question and answer. Further action will occur in January.

We have provoked a debate with LG&E, explained in this [article](#), with a strong rebuttal of their confusing approach written up [here](#). We are planning to work on increasing community support as this campaign continues, educating people on why renewable energy is the way of the future.

## Is 100% clean energy affordable?



## Solar Energy Solutions Is A Tesla Powerwall Certified Installer

By Steve Ricketts, [Solar Energy Solutions](#) General Manager and Owner

Meet Powerwall, your home battery.

100% Self-powered | 0% Grid-powered

On a typical day, Powerwall and solar will meet all of your home's energy needs. [Learn more](#)

7+ days Continuous power during an outage

When the grid goes down, solar energy will continue to power your home and charge your Powerwall. [Learn more](#)

Solar Energy Solutions (SES) is very proud to announce that SES is the first and only Kentucky based solar company to become a Tesla Powerwall Certified Installer. This is groundbreaking news! Steve Ricketts, Solar Energy Solutions General Manager and Owner is excited about this opportunity. "Working with Tesla on home and business energy storage represents a step-change for SES in 2019. Powerwall is the most energy dense, sophisticated and upgradeable battery system there is and I just love bringing the exciting future of renewables to Kentucky. Our

state needs to be at the forefront of developing the clean energy economy, not lagging behind, and we see it as our job to find and help our customers adopt the future today."

Solar owners are at the forefront of the world's transition to clean energy and now have the opportunity to add Powerwall, a revolutionary home energy storage system, to current or future solar installations.

SES explains that Tesla Powerwall is a complete game changer in battery storage for homes with solar or considering a future solar installation. SES elaborates that with Powerwall solar owners can:

- **Store the sun's energy to use around the clock.**
- **Protect your home from power outages.**
- **Lower your electric bill by using more of your own solar.**
- **Control your energy, solar, Powerwall and Tesla S, X or Model 3 with the Tesla App.**
- **Use time-based controls to maximize savings if your utility charges peak pricing.**
- **Combine your solar and Powerwall to power your home independently from the grid (late 2019)**
- **Improve performance with time thru over-the-air software updates**

SES says that Powerwalls are in stock now! Please contact them to find out if Tesla Powerwall would be a good addition to your solar system. They are reserving Powerwalls on a first come, first served basis. You can contact SES by calling (877) 312 7456, or click [here](#) and request a quote.

Learn more about Powerwall at: <https://www.tesla.com/powerwall>

Please note - Powerwall can be incorporated into your future solar projects too, or easily added on to an existing solar install. No additional inverter is required and the Powerwall and installation **qualify for the 30% federal tax credit for renewable energy if solar charged**. The Federal tax credit starts to sunset at the end of 2019, so act now. SES has a limited number of Powerwalls in stock.

## Lessons from a 100% Renewable City

By Lane Boldman, [Kentucky Conservation Committee](#), Executive Director



Mayor Dale Ross of Georgetown, Texas was the keynote speaker at Ky. Conservation Committee's [2019 Legislative Summit](#), held on January 12<sup>th</sup> at the University of Louisville. Mayor Ross is notable as a leader in the clean energy at the city level as Mayor of one of the first towns to move to 100% sustainable energy, and the largest to date to be powered entirely by wind and solar.

Ross, a certified public accountant, moved to Georgetown in 2004 and became mayor in 2014. Georgetown was rated one of the best cities to live in in the South by Southern Living magazine this year. His city was recently

awarded a \$1 million dollar grant from the Bloomberg Mayor's Challenge for their project to advance rooftop solar to power the city. [Details here.](#)

What makes the city of Georgetown unique is the fact that its achievement has taken place in a conservative state known for its extractive industries such as oil and gas development. As Mayor Ross stated during the conference, however, "once you take the politics out of the equation, the decision to go to renewables is a pretty easy one." It was inspiring to hear a real-world example of how clean energy can actually take hold and be economically viable, even with competition from fossil fuels. In Georgetown, citizens own the utility department, which was a major factor in their ability to move to renewables. Nearby Southwestern University was a key driver for the change, when students began demanding cleaner power. One of the city's strategies involved looking at their energy needs using a long time-frame, through 20 and 30-year purchasing contracts, to address pricing stability. What Georgetown was looking for was low pricing, but also contracts that provide more overall stability from increasing rates. The contracts they signed were not the lowest, but they were comfortable that they have negotiated increased stability. Texas is a deregulated state, which also contributed to the city's ability to have more control over their own power. Looking to the future, Georgetown is now working with Denton, Texas to help them become the second city in the state to follow this model.

During his visit to Kentucky, Mayor Ross was able to meet with Louisville's Mayor Fischer and several other city leaders and state legislators to give his first-hand experience on how cities can transform the energy sector. Louisville's Council President David James is introducing his own resolution on moving Louisville to 100% clean energy.

You can find a podcast of the Mayor's Kentucky keynote on Forward Radio, [link here](#). To learn more about the Kentucky Conservation Committee, a collaborative that provides legislative support for conservation groups, [click here](#). You can also find other [materials from the conference here](#).

## 2017 US Energy and Jobs Report by State

By Barbara Szubinska, KySES Treasurer

Have you ever wondered how Kentucky compares to other states in terms of energy jobs? The US Department of Energy recently published a [detailed report by state](#). The information for Kentucky starts on Page 104.

## Solarize Lexington 2019

By Barbara Szubinska, KySES Treasurer

A group of volunteers have organized the first solarize campaign in Kentucky. Lead by Rachel Norton, Solarize Lexington Taskforce Chair, the group worked with Lexington City Council on a solar resolution, which was signed by Mayor Jim Gray on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Modeled after programs in Indiana and Ohio, volunteers in Lexington are launching an effort focused on solar education and group purchasing programs. Through Solarize, homeowners, non-profits, and small business owners in Lexington will be able to learn about their options for generating electricity from solar and find out how to acquire affordable solar power. The effort will significantly accelerate local solar adoption by structuring a group-buying effort that offers discounts for a limited time. Request for proposals for solar installers was issued, and the selections will be announced by February 1<sup>st</sup>.



The Community Solarize Initiative benefits customers and installers alike by reducing the cost of marketing to individual homeowners and connecting the interested parties with experienced, pre-qualified installation firms with proven record of quality installations and high-quality educational programming.

The group plans a kick-off February 16th. Weekly info sessions focused on benefits of solar will follow at public libraries and other community venues. Check [www.solarkentucky.org](http://www.solarkentucky.org) for more information.

Solarize campaigns have more than doubled the use of residential solar in Cincinnati; Bloomington, Indiana; and Wise, West Virginia.

## Stewardship Redefined

By Kris O'Daniel

The governor always talks about the importance of good stewardship which is about attending to common sense principles and values, how we conduct ourselves, care for people and our land. That's what it's all about. But does the governor maximize those opportunities? Consistently taking short cuts creates problems, undercut values and above all is a burden on our economy.

## **Challenges**

Kentucky has become a state where people have more bills to pay than income, despite many low-income groups working 2-3 jobs.

For decades, and to this day, Kentucky has been a major coal producer in the US, and our governor maintains that keeping this goal is being a good steward of the land and the people.

How can sending coal miners to work under conditions known to cause terminal illnesses, be something one want to pursue rather than avoid? This vision keeps Kentucky as one of the sickest states, most polluting states, and ironically, one of the more low-income states as well.

Why does the governor blindly pursue coal as primary energy source when it does not help growing Kentucky's economy and severely damages our environment and people's health?

Jobs are created by growing existing smaller businesses in our communities. Not through tax-incentive giveaways to out-of-state companies that rarely stay after the tax giveaways expire.

Governors in many wealthier states are determined to grow their economy independent of fossil fuels, a transition that is growing jobs and their economy.

Our Governor must learn that any short cuts dealing with the environment and taking a free ride is a deadly combination.

To become a true steward, the governor needs to support policies and funding to transition Kentucky to a clean energy economy.

## **Hopes**

At the national level, federal inaction has prompted state and city action all over the country, enacting legislation mandating Renewable Portfolio Standards.

So far, 29 states plus District of Columbia have adopted mandatory Renewable Portfolio Standards, and seven other states have set voluntary goals, requiring the utilities to produce a certain amount of electricity from renewable clean energy sources. Last year, Cincinnati, Ohio, has become the 100th city in the nation and the second city in Ohio (after Cleveland) to pass the 100% renewable goal.

Lexington has passed a solar energy resolution, and Louisville is working on a 100% renewable initiative.

Not having these bold policies in place state-wide prevents the economy from growing and taking advantage of demand and supply. Record-low prices for renewable energy paired with storage are reported, and clean energy is in demand.

Kentucky needs to become the leader of clean energy and, like the rest of the country, understand that failing to enact policies to reduce emissions comes at a cost so high that we can't afford not to change course.

Last year the US spent \$306 billion and in 2005 Katrina and other hurricanes came at a cost of \$214 billion. The NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information lists the total costs of all-

natural disaster events since 1980 at \$1,591 billion. Tropical cyclones, drought and severe storms are the costliest, most of them a result of global warming.

The US estimates that it could lose roughly 1.2% of GDP for every 1.8 degree of warming.

All countries except Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Russia and the White House are moving out of fossil fuels and into the direction of renewables because it makes economic sense to them.

The private sector and individual states in the US just want to do what make sense.

European Union aims to achieve an “Energy Union,” which illustrates the role of regional integration in facilitating the further integration of renewables.

The opportunities of a green economy are expanding, and the economic opportunities of the future are going to be in clean energy.

Others would add, without stewardship the world would fall apart – and that’s exactly where we are now unless we act.

We must leave this world better than we found it.

<https://kypolicy.org/kentuckys-economic-performance-falls-short-of-claims-based-on-corporate-announcements/>

<https://www.utilitydive.com/news/pacificorp-shows-60-of-its-coal-units-are-uneconomic/543566/>

<https://www.utilitydive.com/news/xcel-solicitation-returns-incredible-renewable-energy-storage-bids/514287/>

<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/events/US/1980-2018>

<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/summary-stats>

<http://proceedings.ises.org/paper/solar2018/solar2018-0004-Khoie.pdf>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/07/climate/ipcc-climate-report-2040.html?action=click&module=Ribbon&pgtype=Article>

## Welcome New Members

Since our previous newsletter, the following have joined KySES:

- John McKnight
- Carl Hall
- Eureka-Energy - Supporting Partner
- Watrus Associates Architects - Supporting Partner
- Pure Power Solar - Sustaining Partner

## Board of Directors

The following individuals are KySES board members. Feel free to contact any of us with suggestions and feedback.

- Wallace McMullen, Chair
- Kathryn Mullen, Co-Chair
- Barbara Szubinska, Treasurer
- John Cotten
- Thad Druffel
- Jamie Clark



Thanks so much to these fine folks and to our renewing members as well! Our membership is very inexpensive and important to help educate and promote solar energy in Kentucky!

You can join both KySES and ASES, including a subscription to [Solar Today magazine](#), for just \$60 annually. [Click here](#) for this special offer, and pick Kentucky as your chapter in the check-out process.

- Shari Mullen

## Upcoming Events

### Upcoming Events

(For details, go to [Events](#))

**Thursday, February 28: [Solar Lobby Day](#)** in Frankfort.

[Find us on Facebook](#)

Contact email: [kysesinfo@gmail.com](mailto:kysesinfo@gmail.com)

KySES Memberships are very affordable!  
\$20 for individuals or \$10 for students.  
Business memberships are \$100 to \$500.  
Visit [www.kyses.org](http://www.kyses.org) for details!

### Thanks to our Sustaining Partner Members





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