

## **First United Methodist's Green Team says: Missoula needs 100 percent clean electricity by 2030!**

First United Methodist's Green Team has joined a campaign, led by 350 Montana, to let the Missoula City Council know that we want 100 percent clean electricity powering our community.

We hope each member of our congregation will participate as well.

Members of our team will provide written and in-person (via Zoom) public comment at City Council meetings over the next six months, urging our elected officials to act now to meet the city's goal of 100 percent clean electricity by 2030.

In April 2019, city and county officials adopted a joint resolution, acknowledging the urgency of the climate crisis and pledging to power Missoula with wind, solar, geothermal and hydro – clean electricity – within 10 years.

In the two and a half years since, our community has not made progress toward that goal. Yes, some officials and residents have lobbied NorthWestern Energy to invest more heavily in solar and wind power. Yes, many of us are better educated on the climate crisis and the need for urgent action.

But we remain heavily dependent on fossil fuels, and the [city's carbon emissions](#) have increased rather than decreased.

Dave Harmon, a former Missoula City Council member now on the 350 Montana leadership team, is coordinating the campaign to deliver a loud, clear call for immediate action to our local elected officials. He needs each of us – and he'll help us sign up to comment via Zoom at a Monday night council meeting or to

submit written testimony. If you're unsure what to say, he'll help you learn more about clean electricity and how to effectively deliver your message.

Here's a little of what Harmon wrote in a recent call to action: "Missoula is facing some tough issues: the Covid pandemic, increased homelessness, lack of affordable housing, soaring rental and home prices, labor shortages, to name a few. These issues are important and have been taking much of our elected officials' attention. But clean energy is equally important, related to all of the above. Clean energy needs equal airtime. Now is the time to remind our elected officials, as climate change worsens, it's all the more important we push forward with 100% clean electricity."

The Missoula City Council meets at 6 p.m. the first four Mondays of each month. Public comment is usually near the beginning of the agenda, so you likely would be finished by 6:30 p.m. Written comments can be submitted at any time, and do get the attention of council members. If you have questions, you can call Dave Harmon at 406-546-6540 or email him at [ecollama@msn.com](mailto:ecollama@msn.com).

If you are ready to sign up to give public comment at a City Council meeting, go to <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/14sAUR8AcgYsGAuflicIBNjF0BNGf0T6YliGHL5LN-D6c/edit?usp=sharing> . Harmon will get you on the council's agenda, and provide a link for the meeting.

**This is your chance to make a difference. Our city must achieve 100 percent clean electricity; it is one true step we can take to help stop – or at least slow – global warming. Please join us in urging the Missoula City Council to take immediate, aggressive action that brings 100 percent clean electricity to our community by 2030.**