

Countering the climate crisis & building a sustainable, just economy



Takeaways from Rob Davies' talk

- **Bend the emissions curve now-- we need to stop the increase in global emissions and then work towards managed degrowth**
- This is the critical decade
- **Focus on what's necessary & that focus will change what's viable**
- **“If a problem is too big to be solved, make it bigger.” ~Eisenhower**
 - Our economic paradigm will change because it will be forced to. We cannot innovate out of this (even though it buys us a little time) without stopping growth. This is the main issue, because it's causing us to overconsume our resource base.
 - The climate crisis is a symptom of this issue. **The problem is our economic system.**
- **What's at stake: catastrophic impacts become global (and increasing inequality)**
- **Hope comes from action. There's a lot that can be saved.**

ECO NOMY (“HOME” + “MANAGEMENT”)

Economy means management of home.

How we organize our relationships in a place, ideally, to take care of the place and each other.

But “management of home” can be good or bad, depending on how you do it and to what ends.

The purpose of our economy could be *turning* land, life and labor into property for a few, or *returning* land, life and labor into a balanced web of stable relationships.

Economy does not mean money, or exchange or financial markets, or trading or Gross Domestic Product. These are simply elements or tools of specific economies. Economies (“how we manage our home”) can be measured in many ways:

How healthy are the soil, people, water, animals? How much wealth is generated?

Who owns the wealth? What even constitutes wealth? Is it money? Well-being? Happiness?

All economic activity has ecological consequences. That doesn’t mean that those consequences are always bad. The economic activity of peoples who have developed long relationships with the ecosystems they are a part of have tended towards balance. This traditional evolved knowledge of place is held in language, food, culture and story.



Economy: care and management of home

- What are the values our economy is organized around?
- What are some forces that prop up these values and make them feel inevitable?
- What are some values you want to see our economy organized around?
- What kind of movements and campaigns help shift the balance of power and implement those values?



Our current economic system and culture values profit and growth over life and the health of our ecosystems. We cannot sustain endless growth on a finite planet.

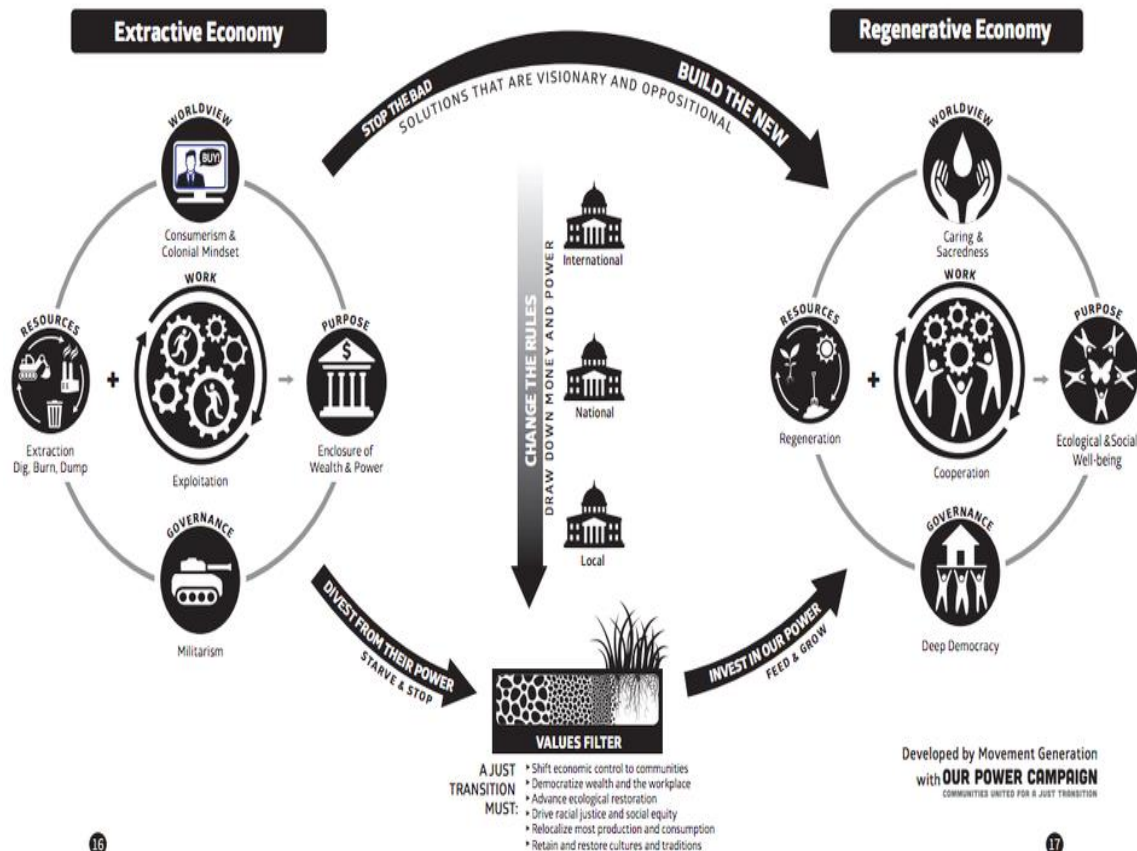
Our Vision



We need multiple strategies to get there:

- **Stop the bad:** keep it in the ground, counter economic inequality and white supremacy
- **Build the new:** vibrant, community solutions, uplift and empower, improve people's lives
- **Change the rules:** why are corporations allowed to pursue growth at all cost
- **Change the story:** focus on what's necessary, **shift the Overton window, support visionary movements**
- **Change the values:** people & ecosystems over profit

A STRATEGY FRAMEWORK FOR JUST TRANSITION



Solutions

- **Start by asking what we need** and truly want the world to be like, and form a strategy towards making that goal possible
- **We have to shift the Overton window on climate.** There's no way we can pass the kind of solutions we need without changing the political "common sense" or political leadership currently in office. This happens through both electoral work and social movements.
- The most **visionary solutions** are being driven/ created by the people most intimately familiar with and impacted by the failings of our current economic system.
 - Indigenous leadership: upholding tribal sovereignty, keep it in the ground movement, rights of nature, food sovereignty
 - Black Lives Matter platform
- **We need to stop new fossil fuel infrastructure, while building local power & advocating for a just transition.**
- We need to transform our energy system, along with the economic and social structures that uphold it. We can make a more just energy system in the process of transition.

Change the story (& remember history)

“The great force of history comes from the fact that we carry it within us, are unconsciously controlled by it in many ways, and history is literally present in all that we do... It is to history that we owe our frames of reference, our identities, and our aspirations.”

~James Baldwin



The Veterans Warrior Society introduces the colors at the Missoula County Commission Sophie Molese Room in the Missoula County Courthouse.

FEATURED TOP STORY

“Missoula County is Indian Country”

Bernie Azure Feb 26, 2020 0



University of Montana's Environmental Studies creates first of its kind certificate in "Indigenous Knowledge and Environmental Sustainability"

From University of Montana Feb 26, 2020 0



Native Plant Stewardship instructor Marilyn Marier in the UM Ethnobotany Garden at the Payne Family Native American Center.

Photo by Todd Goodrich



Most Popular

Articles



- University of Montana's Environmental Studies creates first of its kind certificate in "Indigenous Knowledge and Environmental Sustainability"
- Drug investigation search warrants yield arrests
- Richwine's Burgerville documentary to show March 6-12
- "Missoula County is Indian Country"
- KCC Elders Council hears about the Perma Curves project
- Flathead Lake Biological Station: The Sentinel Flathead Lake Part 1
- Montanans reminded about REAL ID as deadlines approach
- Go Red for Women promotes healthy diets, hearts and fun

Order of events:

-- where we're at

--the vision

-- theory of change: Sierra Club

-- some campaigns we're working on, some other directions (Sunrise, divestment, work that improves people's lives -- like air filter program)

-- beyond coal

-- rf100

--kxl

--EJ/ equity



- Stop the rush to gas
- Shut down Colstrip
- Support a just transition



NorthWestern Energy is the only utility in the country trying to add more coal to its energy portfolio

We need to retire Colstrip in order to get more renewable energy onto the grid



- Only new gas plants
- No new renewable energy
- Colstrip running 20+ years

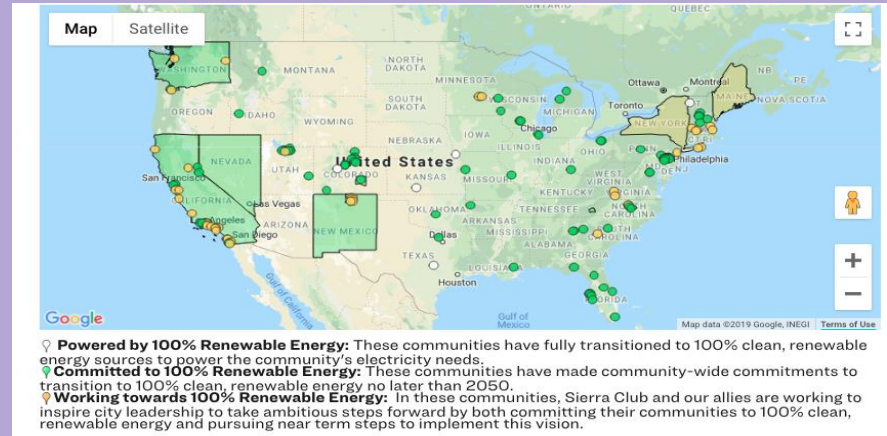
The Public Service Commission is not accounting for the true cost of coal

**We need to challenge what's considered normal & change the rules:
NorthWestern Energy is headed in the wrong direction and is not paying its fair share**

Ready for 100 Campaign



- Building community power for climate solutions
- Changing the story: pushing for what we need
- Orient towards a just energy transition



Missoula: committed to 100% clean electricity by 2030 last April

Kick the coal: Missoula city, county unite to pass 100 percent clean electricity resolution

BY MARTIN KIDSTON

APRIL 4, 2019

f Facebook t Twitter p Pinterest in LinkedIn e Reddit + 4.5K SHARES



Supporters of a joint resolution signed by the city of Missoula and Missoula County on Wednesday packed the City Council chambers to express support for the effort, saying climate change must be addressed without delay. (Martin Kidston/Missoula Current)

Driven by moral imperative and public demand, including that of Missoula's largest employers, the city and county on Wednesday adopted a resolution to kick fossil fuels and achieve 100 percent clean electricity across the urban area by 2030.



Missoula leaders brace for better fire, power futures

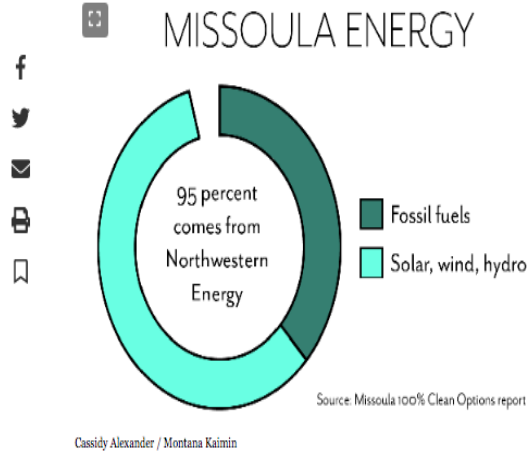
ROB CHANEY rchaney@missoulian.com Apr 3, 2019

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City Council plans to transition to clean electricity by 2030, students voice support

Sydney Akridge / Montana Kaimin Apr 10, 2019



“This is a bold and an ambitious enterprise we’re embarking on,” said Missoula County Commissioner Dave Strohmaier. “The year 2030 is not that far off. But we clearly face a clear and imminent danger to the atmosphere of this planet. If ever there was an emergency before us, this is it.”

Missoula County urges NorthWestern to embrace renewables

Guest column

Missoula to Public Service Commission: Protect rooftop solar

NICOLE ROWLEY, DAVE STROHMAIER and JOSH SLOTNICK May 5, 2019

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Last month, the Missoula City Council and Missoula Board of County Commissioners, with the support of hundreds of local residents, businesses and community organizations, adopted a goal of 100% clean electricity for the Missoula urban area by 2030. We are proud to join more than 130 local governments across the country with similar goals. And we look forward to working with NorthWestern Energy, our primary electricity provider in Missoula, as we transition to 100 percent clean electricity.

Unfortunately, a recent proposal from NorthWestern would take us in precisely the wrong direction. NorthWestern has proposed changes to customer rates that would make it much more difficult for Montanans to choose clean, renewable electricity to power their homes. The proposed changes, which must be approved by the Montana Public Service Commission, would increase all customers' electric bills by about 7%, and would have much greater impacts on customers who install

RECOMMENDED

Submit a letter to the editor on topics of general interest. Letters to the editor are welcomed and encouraged.

SUBMIT A LETTER

PRINT PAGE

Missoula County, city urge Montana PSC to lead transition



Missoula's 100% Clean Electricity Options Report, v2

Updated February 13, 2019, with minor edits March 6, 2019
Original report date (v1) October 20, 2018

The following report is Missoula's first-ever "options report" on why and how Missoula can transition to 100% clean electricity. Here we include:

- Our Target – a transition to 100% clean electricity community-wide by 2035 or sooner
- Information about our collective electricity use, jurisdiction and boundary
- Recommendations and a menu of eight possible options to move us forward
- Next steps
- List of Appendices and Resources that accompany this report.

This report, accompanying Appendices, and an online comment form to assist in updating this draft will be linked at missoulacclimate.org. Each update to this report will have a date stamp.



**HELENA'S CITY COMMISSION
COMMITTS TO 100% CLEAN
ELECTRICITY BY 2030**

**"This is what's possible when communities come
together." ~ Commissioner Emily Dean**

Helena just
became the
second city in
Montana to
commit to 100%
clean electricity by
2030

Helena commits to clean energy

Officials vote to fully source power from renewables by 2030

NOLAN LISTER
nolan.lister@helenair.com

Helena will source all of its energy from clean, renewable projects by 2030, according to a resolution unanimously approved by the city commission Monday.

Helena Sustainability Coordinator Patrick Hodge said the resolution has been in the works since well before he took on the role in early January.

Former Helena city commissioner and current state Rep. Robert Farris-Olsen, D-Helena, spoke during the public-comment period Monday evening to express his support of the city's continued efforts to combat climate change. "This is a great continuation

of work we've done in the past," Farris-Olsen said.

More than two dozen concerned Helenians and citizens of communities as far away as California showed up in support of the resolution. Nearly 100 people shoe-horned themselves into the city commission chambers to bear witness to the landmark resolution.

Judge said this resolution has been a priority for not only the

city commissioners, but also a large contingent of Helena's residents.

"It does seem as though the community is tracking this issue and supporting this resolution," he said.

The city has received numerous emails in recent weeks calling for the commission to approve the resolution.

"This is one of the most important things you can do for our city's

future," Helena resident Shannon Heath wrote in an email to the mayor and commission Monday morning.

The state's largest utility, NorthWestern Energy, contends that approximately 60% of the energy it provides is already derived from renewable sources.

City Commissioner Andres Haladaj said during the meeting that

"This is a great continuation

COMMUNITY IN FOCUS



Economists see fossil fuel bias in power plan

Analysts: NW Energy ignored cheap options

TOM LUTY

tluty@billingsgazette.com

BILLINGS — The legitimacy of NorthWestern Energy's 20-year energy plan, heavy on gas-fired

PHOTO BY CLEAN ENERGY, PAGE A8

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BILLINGS — The legitimacy of NorthWestern Energy's 20-year energy plan, heavy on gas-fired

"This is only the beginning"

Mayor Wilmot Collins

Keep it in the ground



Stop the Missing and Murdered
Indigenous People's Crisis

Support KXL resistance

- **Lawsuit:** challenging the Army Corps of Engineers' review process
- Construction is slated to begin in the next month
- Boost the story: this threatens water, communities, tribal sovereignty, and is expected to contribute to MMIP crisis





EQUALITY

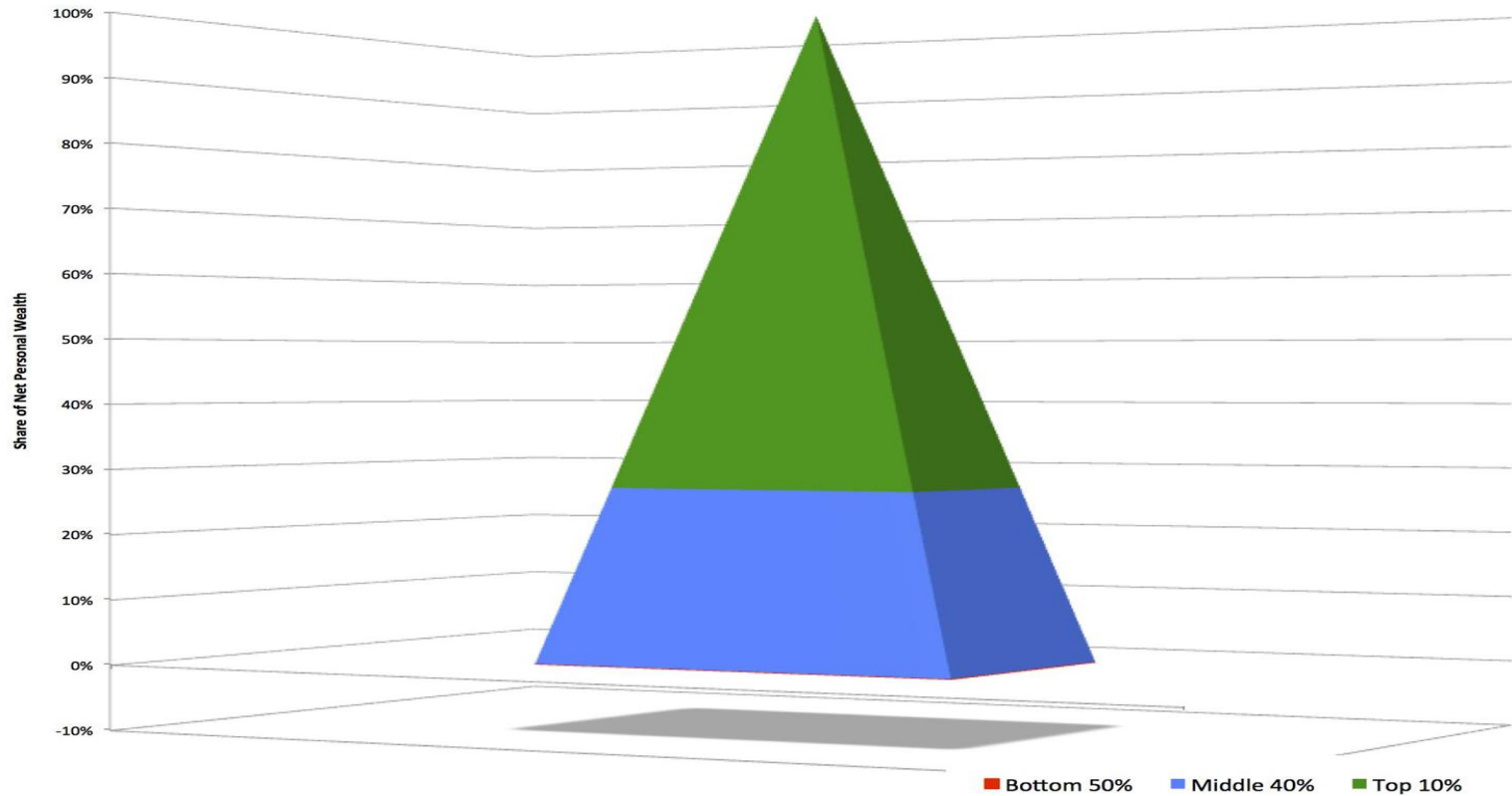


EQUITY



U.S. Wealth Pyramid

2014



Source: World Wealth & Income Database (<http://wid.world/country/usa/>)

“If we protect communities on the frontlines of pollution, then polluters will have no place to dump their waste.”

~Van Jones, founder of Green For All