

Climate Action Philly-2020 focus

Broad Goals:

- Create jobs in building a clean energy future - see the [Clean Jobs PA](#) report
- No new fossil fuel projects like [NYC's Recent Announcement](#)
- Equitable transition to clean energy
- Ensure transparency and public input - especially the Philadelphia Gas Commission and the Philadelphia Facilities Management Corp

Eight Immediate Areas of Focus:

1. **No new fossil fuel infrastructure or projects** - which result in increased healthcare costs and worsen the climate crisis.
 - a. Ensure that the PES refinery site is used in environmentally sound ways, and not for fossil fuel processing or transporting.
 - b. No new Combined Heat & Power (CHP) Plants, Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facilities, or new gas hook-ups
2. **Ensure equitable transition to renewable energy¹**. We must ground every aspect of this work in equity, recognizing that low-income communities – which are often disproportionately Black, Brown, Indigenous and immigrant – are most vulnerable to the effects of environmental degradation and pollution.
 - a. **Impose a moratorium on utility shut-offs** and restore service for households that have already been shut off (with no reconnection fees).*(See appendix 1)*
 - b. **Ensure affordable access to green¹ energy**, prioritizing access for people living at 300% of the poverty level or below. The cost of converting to renewables must be offset by the electricity companies with no increase to ratepayers.*(See appendix 2)*

¹“Green or renewable”: For the purposes of this document, “green energy”, or “renewable energy” refers to energy generated by solar, wind, hydroelectric, geothermal, or ocean (tidal, wave, or ocean thermal) sources, geothermal heating and cooling, solar water heating, or passive solar features. Because of the toxic byproducts of combustion, with the exception of biogas (e.g., methane generated at sewage treatment plants) or hydrogen produced with renewable energy, or, in the short term, biodiesel produced from waste cooking oils, biomass is specifically excluded.

- c. **Ensure a just transition for workers** in the energy sector and other affected industries. Provide job training and placement at no loss to workers. Protect workers' benefits.
 - d. **Financial incentives to low income homeowners to upgrade** energy efficiency and necessary repairs to ensure healthy indoor air quality and structural integrity. (See *appendix 3*)
3. **Hold big polluters accountable** for cleanup of the land and air; for remediation with community members affected by pollution; and for back taxes, fines and violations.
4. **All elected representatives sign the [No Fossil Fuel Money](#) pledge.**
5. **Create a Climate Policy Advisory Council (CPAC)** bringing to the table community, environmental, and social justice organizations to work with Council and Administration, Office of Sustainability & the Philadelphia Energy Authority.
6. **Electrify everything, transition off of gas and oil**
 - a. **New construction, including gut rehabs, must be net zero energy²** construction, which may include offsets and use no fossil fuel energy during the building's operation -- notably, no gas hookups. See [Cities Moving To Ban](#)
 - b. **Housing incentives**, including tax, for new construction must be directed toward LEED standards
 - c. **When gas & oil appliances and systems need to be replaced**, they must be replaced with electric appliances and systems -- in schools, public buildings, and private homes and businesses. Tax abatements can assist low income homeowners.
 - d. **Use tax abatement solely for climate solutions**, so that a 100% tax reduction for 10 years is allowed only for net zero energy buildings.
 - e. **Transition to green¹ energy, starting with energy efficiency**, in all buildings in an equitable way that creates jobs with competitive salaries, across the income and education spectrum, for local residents. This begins by replacing oil & gas systems with electric systems, when it's time to replace -- in schools, public buildings, and private homes and businesses. See [NYC](#) , [Arizona resists but 20 Cities](#)

² Net Zero Energy: A building may achieve a net zero energy building designation by achieving net zero carbon emissions, either by producing enough renewable energy to meet its own annual energy consumption requirements, or by supporting offsite energy or carbon offsets. Such offsets can include subscription to solar or wind generation within the PJM grid area, purchase of renewable energy certificates (RECs), tree planting, or other carbon sequestration methods.

- f. **Plan for PGW transition**, addressing retraining employees, given the need for increased demand for retrofits.
 - g. **Energy Use Disclosure at time of sale** by residential and commercial building owners.
 - h. **Accelerate the transition to a green¹ energy for all municipal buildings**. Currently the deadline is 2030 in the Municipal Energy Master Plan.
7. **Create Green Collar Jobs**
- a. Energy efficiency jobs -- insulation & draft sealing, window replacement
 - b. Replacing utilities and appliances
 - c. Solar installations
 - d. Expand investment in green spaces, parks, ecosystem restoration -- large scale native shade tree planting, eco-remediation of refinery site, encourage urban agriculture & local food production with harvesting as a job program
8. **Transportation**
- a. Electrify Entire City fleet of 6000 vehicles
 - b. Improve transit per [Transit Fwd Philly Coalition](#) goals
 - c. Expand anti-idling regulations and campaigns, like NYC, with citizen enforcement
 - d. Reduce Congestion: Find a creative alternative to stopping in travel lanes.
 - e. Require electric vehicle charging stations at each parking lot
 - f. Incentivize solar installations on parking lots
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APPENDIX

1. **Utility shut offs have resulted in deaths.** Our proposals should eventually result in the elimination of shut offs, but until then, we support the call from social justice groups for:
 - a. A year-round moratorium on utility shutoffs for any household at or below 300% of Federal Poverty.
 - b. Restoration of service for those at these income levels who have been shut off with no reconnection fees
 - c. Lower the rates for those at 300% of poverty or below such that no one is paying more than 6% of income on utilities, as per Federal standards for household budgets
 - d. Apply the same policies for those above 300% of poverty who can demonstrate financial hardship
2. [Tesla in Australia](#) has found a way to lower energy costs using rooftop solar and a grid that serves all participants. Pennsylvania law currently would require using the regional grid but this model could be advocated for.

3. **We would like to hasten Philadelphia Energy Authority’s “Built to Last” program.** Currently the application process for low income home repair subsidy programs is complex. Moneys are left unspent, such as earned income tax credits, and there are long waiting lists for some programs. “Built To Last” is a new platform for homeowners that streamlines the application process, by deploying the services collaboratively. It integrates benefits screening, property audit, and construction management. PEA expects to be ready in one year.

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