



# City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: City Utilities - Water and Light

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: August 4, 2025

Re: Public Hearing for the 2025 Renewable Energy Plan

## Executive Summary

This is a Public Hearing for the 2025 Renewable Energy Plan. The Renewable Energy Standard passed by voters in 2004 and modified by council in 2014 requires that each year prior to February 1, City of Columbia Water & Light publicly release a Renewable Energy Plan outlining compliance with the ordinance. The Renewable Energy Plan provides details on the amount of renewable energy provided, descriptions of current and future projects, and the forecast for current and future renewable energy portfolios. Staff reports that 22.82% of all energy sources for 2024 electric retail usage was provided by the 2024 renewable portfolio.

The 2025 Renewable Energy Plan was publicly released January 31, 2025. It has been reviewed by the Water & Light Advisory Board and the Climate & Environment Commission. Ordinance requires a public hearing and a vote to approve the plan.

## Discussion

Columbia Water & Light has been pursuing renewable energy sources since the mandate was passed by voter approval in 2004. The following is a list of the renewable energy sources as a percentage of load for 2024:

- Bluegrass Ridge Wind ----- 0.70%
- Crystal Lake Wind ----- 16.92%
- Columbia Landfill Gas ----- 1.10%
- Distributed Photovoltaics ----- 0.62%
- Jefferson City Landfill Gas ----- 1.61%
- Truman Solar ----- 1.84%
- Columbia Solar ----- 0.03%

Renewable Energy Total: 280,872 megawatt hours (MWH) or 22.82%. If the contracted IronStar Wind project was not delayed, the current 25% renewable energy goal would have been exceeded.

As outlined in Section 27-106(b) of the Renewable Energy Standard Ordinance, renewable energy cannot cause electric rates to increase more than 3% above what rates would be with non-renewable energy. Based on the methodology detailed in the Renewable Energy Plan, the total expense of renewable energy resources was 66.2% of the allowed cost limit of \$4,536,104. While the additional cost will not result in a recommended rate increase, consideration for the increasing cost of renewables should be made when evaluating future rate increases.



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## Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: N/A

Long-Term Impact: N/A

## Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

### [Strategic Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Reliable Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

### [Comprehensive Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

## Legislative History

| Date       | Action  |
|------------|---|
| 07/21/2025 | R98-25 Setting a public hearing: consider the Water & Light 2025 Renewable Energy Plan      |
| 8/5/2024   | PH27-24 Consider the Water and Light 2024 Renewable Energy Plan                             |
| 7/1/2024   | R120-24 Setting a public hearing: consider the Water & Light 2024 Renewable Energy Plan.    |
| 07/17/2023 | PH27-23 Consider the Water and Light 2023 Renewable Energy Plan                             |
| 06/20/2023 | R95-23 Setting a public hearing: consider the Water & Light 2023 Renewable Energy Plan.     |
| 7/18/2022  | PH25-22 Consider the Water and Light 2022 Renewable Energy Plan                             |
| 7/05/2022  | R95-22 Setting a public hearing: consider the Water & Light 2022 Renewable Energy Plan.     |
| 7/06/2021  | PH26-21 Consider the Water and Light 2021 Renewable Energy Plan                             |
| 06/21/2021 | R94-21 Setting a public hearing; consider the Water and Light 2021 Renewable Energy Plan    |
| 11/16/2020 | PH44-20 Consider the Water and Light 2020 Renewable Energy Report                           |
| 11/02/2020 | R141-20 Setting a public hearing; consider the Water and Light 2020 Renewable Energy Report |
| 06/03/2019 | PH25-19 Consider the Water and Light 2019 Renewable Energy Report                           |
| 05/20/2019 | R73-19 Setting a public hearing; consider the Water and Light 2019 Renewable Energy Report  |
| 05/21/2018 | PH15-18 Consider the Water and Light 2018 Renewable Energy                                  |



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|            |   |
|------------|---|
| 05/07/2018 | Report<br>R65-18 Setting a public hearing; consider the Water and Light<br>2018 Renewable Energy Report |
| 04/17/2017 | PH10-17 Consider the Water and Light 2017 Renewable Energy<br>Report                                    |
| 04/03/2017 | R41-17 Setting a public hearing; consider the Water and Light<br>2017 Renewable Energy Report           |
| 05/02/2016 | PH15-16 Consider the Water and Light 2016 Renewable Energy<br>Report                                    |
| 04/18/2016 | R41-16 Setting a public hearing; consider the Water and Light<br>2016 Renewable Energy Report           |

## Suggested Council Action

Accept the 2025 Renewable Energy Plan