



Department Source: Finance

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: April 1, 2024

Re: Finance Advisory and Audit Committee discussion on 100% Renewable by 2030

Executive Summary

The Finance Advisory and Audit Committee (FAAC) has raised the issue of financial liability/advantage of 100% Renewable by 2030.

Discussion

At the February 19th the FAAC discussed financial aspects of the 100% renewable by 2030 plan, acknowledging the many assumptions, estimates and generally unknowable data used as inputs in modeling, all of which raise concern when used to make consequential decisions. The FAAC also discussed potentially significant cost increases for electricity at a time when 20% of city utility customers struggle to pay their bill each month.

These proposed plan options require much deeper analysis, with cost estimates determined in an independent manner; the FAAC stressed that the public must know the costs before taking any action toward this goal.

The committee further discussed projects still on the table such as smart meters, the stalled progress on the south transmission line, and the substation.

FAAC: Motion: submit an advisory to Council

Oropallo/Richards, unanimous

Advisory:

- 1) The public must be given true, verifiable costs for the various 2030 100% renewable energy proposals; an honest broker should be engaged to independently assess risks and costs.
- 2) Recommend consideration of waiting for the Grain Belt project to be completed. Estimate is three to four years.
- 3) Equally stress goals of using less, installing smart meters, and building the staff recommended transmission line, and substation.
- 4) Pursue federal grants through Inflation Reduction Act that will allow the City to put funds toward improving infrastructure along with the goal of reducing usage.



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

The City of Columbia Electric Utility and The Energy Authority presented a 100% Renewable Study to Council at their November 20, 2023 Pre-Council meeting. Following the presentation and discussion the City Council asked for further investigation and information from Staff on several items including potential changes to the Renewable Ordinance, establishing incremental renewable goals, cost evaluation and monitoring/reporting of progress.

The Water and Light Advisory Board has begun discussion of these items with Utility staff.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: N/A

Long-Term Impact: N/A

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

[Strategic Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Economy, Secondary Impact: Infrastructure, Tertiary Impact: Operational Excellence

[Comprehensive Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Legislative History

Date	Action
Manually enter dates in this format: MM/DD/YYYY. Use hard returns to get to the next line of action entry.	

Suggested Council Action

Discussion of the impact of setting a renewable deadline.