



## CITY OF EVANSVILLE

Evansville Climate Collaborative (ECC)

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To whom it may concern:

I am writing to represent the Evansville Climate Collaborative, a City of Evansville agency leading collective action to promote a more sustainable, healthy, and resilient community. I am here to advocate for the inclusion of significant clean, renewable energy sources in CenterPoint's next integrated resource plan.

Our agency is tasked with implementing Evansville's Climate Action Plan (CAP), which outlines actionable strategies to improve our air quality and our resilience to climate impacts. The plan recommends 50 priority actions across 5 sectors – energy, transportation, waste, land, and resilience. When implemented, these actions will make our buildings more efficient, our vehicles cleaner, our waste useful, our urban space greener, and our community more resilient.

The plan aims to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 30% by 2030 and 80% by 2050. Through an inventory of our annual greenhouse gas emissions, we discovered that our community contributed 2.7 million metric tons of gases in 2023. Energy consumption for buildings and facilities is the source of 79% of those emissions because the energy is generated primarily from fossil fuels. The burning of fossil fuels is the primary source of greenhouse gases and other air pollutants that have negatively impacted our region's air quality for decades.

If we are to meet our goals of reducing air emissions, we must focus primarily on improving the energy efficiency of our buildings and on using cleaner energy sources. While the City can advocate for energy efficiency improvements in buildings to help our residents and businesses save energy use and costs, it will make a small impact in reducing emissions compared to changing how that energy is generated. We must collaborate with our utility provider CenterPoint Energy and advocate for the transition to clean, renewable sources for energy generation.

Clean, renewable energy sources should be a priority for our community and our utility, given they achieve the 5 guiding principal pillars of House Enrolled Act 1007– Reliability, Resiliency, Affordability, Stability, and Environmental Sustainability. Emerging climate impacts like extreme temperatures and storms will change our energy demand and test our energy supply. Diversification of energy sources supplying the grid will improve the reliability of our energy and our community's resilience during interruptions caused by weather events. Power generated from newer solar and wind technologies is also more affordable in the long run compared to keeping antiquated fossil fuel power plants safely operational. They can also stabilize energy costs compared to the volatile market fluctuations of fossil fuels. Our residents have been demanding relief from the burden of their energy costs, and this is one way to deliver that relief. And finally, renewable energy sources like solar and wind are abundant and sustainable, whereas fossil fuels are not.

No matter how you frame it, renewable energy sources are a good investment. They will provide the residents of our community with better air quality, improved energy reliability, lower energy costs, and enhanced energy security. They will also ensure our community can be safer and more resilient to the climate impacts we will face.

We urge CenterPoint to prioritize clean, renewable energy sources in their energy mix in the next IRP. We advocate for at least the same commitment to renewable energy sources as promised in the current IRP. We emphasize the urgency of this matter to prepare our community for the impacts we will face. Thank you for considering this request.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lauren Lynch".

Lauren Lynch, Director