



**CLEAN  
ECONOMY**  
Coalition of Wisconsin

## STOP THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW GAS PLANTS IN WISCONSIN

*In April, WEC Energy Group, the parent company of We Energies, submitted a proposal to the Public Service Commission (PSC) to build \$2 billion of new natural gas infrastructure in southeastern Wisconsin. If these plans are approved, Wisconsin residents will once again be paying the price through unreachable climate goals, unhealthy air, and higher utility bills.*

### NEW FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE HAS CONSEQUENCES FOR OUR PLANET, PEOPLE AND POCKETBOOKS

The Clean Economy Coalition of Wisconsin believes that new gas plants are inconsistent with the state's economic future and will slow our path to Governor Evers' Clean Energy Plan, which creates a path to achieve [net-zero carbon emissions by 2050](#).



#### HARMING OUR HEALTH

Infusing more money into gas infrastructure will increase health impacts on residents. Burning methane gas will lead to increased air pollution, affecting the health of nearby communities. Research from the [National Institutes of Health](#) shows that those living in a zip code with a fuel-fired power plant experience 11% higher asthma hospitalization, 15% higher respiratory infection hospitalization, and 17% higher COPD hospitalization rates than those who live in a zip code without a power plant.



#### WORSENING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Methane, the primary component of natural gas, is a potent greenhouse gas. With over 80 times the warming power of carbon dioxide over a 20-year time horizon, **gas burning and methane leaks from extraction, production and transportation significantly contribute to climate change.**



#### INCREASING FINANCIAL BURDEN ON RATEPAYERS

The cost of building these new facilities will be passed on to ratepayers, who will bear the financial burden well beyond the expected lifespan of these plants. We Energies ratepayers are still paying for past investments in fossil fuel generation, including the \$2.3 billion Oak Creek coal plant completed in 2011. **It doesn't end there. Households are already struggling to pay higher energy bills following two We Energies rate increases of 14% since 2022, and now the utility company is asking for an additional 18.5% increase in rates over the next two years.**

## WE ENERGIES' INCONSISTENT APPROACH

WEC Energy Group has targeted an 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050. However, the proposed projects push additional gas build-out, including:

- ♦ Building a new 1,100-1,200 MW gas-generating plant at Oak Creek Power Plant campus, costing \$1.2 billion. (Docket #6630-CE-317)
- ♦ Installing seven reciprocating internal combustion engines near the Paris Solar Farm in Kenosha County, costing \$280 million. (Docket #6630-CE-316)
- ♦ Constructing 33 miles of natural gas pipeline in Kenosha, Racine and Milwaukee counties at a cost of more than \$183 million (Docket #6630-CG-139)
- ♦ Constructing a new liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility, including systems to pretreat, liquefy, store and vaporize LNG, in Oak Creek, costing \$456.3 million (Docket #6630-CG-140)

## OUR CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE IS AT STAKE

The decisions facing the PSC in 2024 will impact the clean energy future of our state. It is essential that the Commission is guided by a thorough and well-informed decision-making process that will enable the state to meet its economic and clean energy goals, while prioritizing the health and well-being of all Wisconsinites.

**Instead of proposing more fossil fuel projects, utilities should align with the state's clean energy goals and prioritize growing Wisconsin's renewable portfolio.** These investments should include technologies such as batteries and other forms of energy storage, and focus on maximizing energy efficiency and flexible demand alternatives.

Not only that, the PSC can address and improve grid reliability by approving additional regional transmission lines and reinforcing its system with more clean power generation and storage – without adding additional, costly gas plants.

## TOOLS TO PLAN AHEAD

*In 2024, the PSC will consider more than \$4 billion in new transmission, renewable and fossil gas investments.*

Wisconsin lacks an Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) process, which supports states in meeting forecasted energy demand, ensuring reliable service is cost-effectively provided for customers. Wisconsin is one of only a handful of states in the U.S. without an IRP process.

The Coalition will be focused on developing legislative policy that equips the PSC to holistically evaluate these proposals from utilities and other renewable sources when making decisions that have a far-reaching impact on Wisconsin's future.

Restoring Wisconsin's IRP process would ensure the PSC could consider all factors – including plans from other utilities and renewable sources – when making decisions that have far-reaching impacts on Wisconsin's future.



**CLEAN ECONOMY COALITION OF WISCONSIN**  
*cleaneconomywi.com*

The Clean Economy Coalition of Wisconsin (CECW) is a group of climate, energy, environmental justice and conservation organizations, businesses and allies. The Coalition leverages the combined strength of its members to enhance the quality of life for all Wisconsinites by accelerating the state's transformation to a clean energy economy. **Learn more at [www.cleaneconomywi.com](http://www.cleaneconomywi.com).**