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**CLEAN
ECONOMY**
Coalition of Wisconsin

STATEMENT FROM THE CLEAN ECONOMY COALITION OF WISCONSIN

**WE ENERGIES' PLANS FOR NEW FOSSIL FUEL
INFRASTRUCTURE ARE INCONSISTENT WITH THE STATE'S
ECONOMIC FUTURE, SLOWS PATH TO DECARBONIZATION**

MILWAUKEE – The Clean Economy Coalition of Wisconsin believes that new fossil fuel plants are inconsistent with the state's economic future and will slow our path to [net-zero carbon emissions by 2050](#).

Today, the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) opened two applications from We Energies that could result in the development of \$2 billion in new fossil fuel infrastructure in southeastern Wisconsin. [If these plans are approved](#), Wisconsin residents will once again be paying the price through escalating climate impacts, unreachable climate goals, unhealthy air and higher utility bills.

We Energies' proposed plants prioritize shareholder profits over the health and financial safety of Wisconsinites. The cost of building these new facilities will be passed on to ratepayers in the form of higher utility bills and exacerbated health issues from burning and transporting fossil gas.

These expensive, new fossil fuel projects do not make sense in today's 21st-century economy, as they will likely be retired before the end of their economic lifespan. We Energies' ratepayers are still paying for past investments in fossil fuel generation that are being retired early, including the \$2.3 billion Oak Creek coal plant completed in 2011. Cleaner alternatives are already more cost-effective and more reliable than gas and will be increasingly more so in time as they continue gaining economies of scale and are not subject to fuel price volatility and pollution control costs.

The decisions facing the PSC in 2024 have far-reaching consequences for the economic and clean energy future of the state. The filing for the new plants highlights a weakness in Wisconsin's utility regulatory process. Wisconsin, unlike many other states in the U.S., lacks an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) process – a tool that would support the Commission in meeting forecasted energy demand and ensure reliable service is provided in a cost-effective way for customers.

The Coalition will be focused on developing legislative policy solutions that equip the PSC to holistically evaluate proposals from utilities and other renewable sources when making decisions that have a wide-reaching impact on Wisconsin's future. It is essential that the Commission is guided by a thorough and well-informed decision-making process that will set the state up to meet its clean energy goals.

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ABOUT THE CLEAN ECONOMY COALITION OF WISCONSIN

The Clean Economy Coalition of Wisconsin 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. We believe that an economy-wide approach to decarbonization will take our state further, faster – with better outcomes for us all. We champion equity-first policies that create jobs for Wisconsin workers, build healthier communities and protect our natural resources. By working together, we advocate for clean energy solutions that work for all of Wisconsin's diverse cultures, communities and geographies. Learn more at www.cleaneconomywi.com.