

REAL Presentation to Louisville Metro Council – February 2, 2023

My Name is Ed Allgeier, and tonight it is my privilege to thank the Louisville Metro Council for approving A Path to 100% Renewable Energy by 2040 in 2020, which was subsequently codified into law in 2022.

With your leadership, Louisville Metro accepted what scientists have come to view as an existential threat to life on Earth as we know it.

The wake-up call came in 1988, when the World Meteorological Society teamed up with the United Nations Environment Program to provide objective and complete assessments as to the extent of scientific agreement on the drivers of Climate Change.

But the US and certain other first world countries, have sometimes taken a more-or-less laissez faire view toward Climate Change. And coal-producing states like Kentucky have a strong economic interest in denying the data.

For instance, “Inside Climate News” recently reported that the Governor of West Virginia continues to insist Climate Change is a hoax. And, last year a Kentucky Legislator was quoted: “Unfortunately, we have some people today that actually worship at the altar of the **cult** of climate change”.

Meanwhile, our own Public Utility, LG&E, just can’t seem to get the message. Despite all the well-deserved criticism from their 2021 IRP, they have initiated an application for two new natural gas furnaces that would spew CO₂ gas well into the 2060s!

In truth, the admitted lack of enforceable law to constrain LG&E has been problematic. To compensate, informal pressures from elected officials, judges and citizen-driven demand sources are needed to curb their entrenchment. Already, our newly elected Mayor has expressed that he intends to work with the PSC and is in early discussions in forming a municipal utility, hopefully countering LG&E’s proven reckless tendencies.

But YOU were there from the outset. And we thank you for your leadership and for being a trusted partner to the Renewable Energy Alliance for Louisville.

And for all the new members, welcome to the fight.