

**Myers, Denaë**

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**From:** Trustees  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 9, 2020 11:51 AM  
**To:** Russell Seal  
**Cc:** Trustees  
**Subject:** RE: [InternetMail]SA climate plan adopted – time to phase out coal

Hello,

Thank you for contacting us regarding the City Council’s passage of the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) and sharing your perspectives on electric power generation. The utility industry is currently going through a big transition and we are excited that the community wants to have conversations about energy.

The City’s initiative to enact the CAAP is a call for our community to join together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and curb our impact on the environment. Together, with full participation and involvement of all sectors of our community, we can achieve positive action. Everyone has a role to play. The Greenhouse Gas Inventory that set the baseline for the City’s CAAP shows that 47% of our community’s emissions come from energy use in buildings and as the provider of that energy we know we play a big part in helping to continue to reduce that slice of the pie. Our customers can reduce their energy use, take advantage of our helpful programs, and we at a utility level can add more renewables and battery storage to the energy mix. These are just some examples of what will truly be a community effort.

Specific to CPS Energy, our Board of Trustees endorsed the CAAP and has instructed me, as CPS Energy’s President & CEO, to work towards the new goal of carbon net neutrality by 2050 through the careful implementation of our **Flexible Path** strategy. Through this strategy, we will balance real implications to our community’s energy reliability, customer affordability, security, safety, environmental sustainability and resilience.

Announcing the first component of **Flexible Path**, we recently proposed a blended power approach for adding incremental generation capacity. Called the **FlexPower Bundle**, we will be requesting proposals for 300-900 MWs of new solar power, 10-50 MWs of new energy storage, and 300- 500 MWs from existing natural gas plants currently operating within Texas. The **FlexPower Bundle** is intended to be a diversified solution set, including some emerging technologies. The natural gas component of the bundle is essential because it is a controllable source of power that can be ramped up and down as needed, offering power reliability and grid resilience. While renewable resources are an important and growing part of our generation portfolio, 100% renewable power is not feasible today because renewables alone cannot support all our customers consistently and reliably, 24/7/365.

We conduct extensive community engagement to ensure that our actions and decisions reflect the concerns and insights of all our customers. It’s important to us to engage with the public firsthand and to hear your ideas and potential solutions, plus innovative

new ideas that we can incorporate into our strategy. We gather input from community members like you via various routes for example email messages like this one you sent. We collect public input by way of numerous avenues including stakeholder meetings, our monthly Board of Trustees meetings, and at specially called Board Input Sessions. We also have employees that are willing to go out to present and discuss specific topics of interest to smaller groups like Home Owner and Neighborhood Associations or any other community, business or civic group that wants to learn more about what we do or give us feedback. We also conduct ongoing People First Community Fairs, attend community town halls, host focus groups, and administer customer surveys. At any point, input and feedback is typically shared via our website.

This summer we asked for community input through two brief surveys that are related to our **Flexible Path** and were designed for us to learn about the priorities of our customers. Current survey results have indicated customer affordability is the top priority for 52 percent of the respondents on the **FlexPower Bundle** survey, as well as for 47 percent of the **FlexSTEP** (energy conservation and efficiency) survey respondents.

Our community is diverse and provides a wide range of input. We take that broad spectrum of input into consideration when we think about our energy future. We get feedback such as yours asking us to replace our coal and natural gas units with renewable energy and we also get feedback from customers that trust us to continue making decisions that keep reliability and cost as primary considerations. We reassess our generation portfolio continually and currently solar and battery storage aren't quite ready to branch out on their own as an affordable replacement for our fossil fueled plants. We need the traditional fossil fuel sources to make sure we meet our obligation and are there for you when you flip that switch.

There is no doubt, CPS Energy, along with the entire energy industry, is in a state of transition that includes more renewable and low to non-emitting sources of energy. We have already made great strides towards reducing our carbon footprint. Specifically, we:

- closed the Deely coal units early and replaced them with a less emitting natural gas plant;
- have one of the biggest and most effective energy efficiency and conservation programs in the nation, called **Save for Tomorrow Energy Plan** (STEP); and
- are national leaders in the use of wind and solar power.

There is much work to do and we value and thank you for your input. Smart energy policies should be solutions oriented, inclusive of community desires and needs, and incorporate ways to reduce energy consumption by utilizing current energy infrastructure in the most efficient way. We are currently investing in and evaluating innovative technologies like solar, battery storage and new programs with energy efficiency to help customers use energy more wisely and lower their bills, create jobs and educational investments, leverage valuable economic development opportunities that new technologies provide, and reduce the community's carbon footprint.

We will continue to share information, educate our customers on the complexities of our business, and listen to all our stakeholders. Thank you for being part of that process.

Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts and concerns.

Sincerely,

Paula Gold Williams, President & CEO, on behalf of,  
The CPS Energy Board of Trustees

Copy to: The CPS Energy Board of Trustees  
City of San Antonio City Council

**From:** Russell Seal <russellseal@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 22, 2019 12:56 PM  
**To:** Trustees <trustees@cpsenergy.com>  
**Subject:** [InternetMail]SA climate plan adopted – time to phase out coal

**EXTERNAL EMAIL:** Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear CPS Energy Board Member,

I'm very excited that the San Antonio City Council adopted the San Antonio Climate Action and Adaptation Plan. This is a big step forward for our city.

I'm writing because implementation of the plan should start with CPS Energy. The utility is responsible for almost half of the city's emissions, and reducing emissions from other sectors – such as transportation – will rely heavily on having emissions-free electricity.

Other electric utilities are making commitments – and following through on them – to replace coal and natural gas power plants with affordable renewable energy. I want CPS Energy to do the same.

My request to you is that you establish a public, collaborative resource planning process that includes sharing of costs and benefits of various options.

The people of San Antonio own CPS Energy and deserve a say in which source of energy the utility uses. These decisions affect our lives in very real ways – not just in the form of electric bills, but also in the form of respiratory disease, such as asthma, and a climate that gets hotter by the day.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Russell Seal

