ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE THREATS

AIR POLLUTION

- Indiana has two coal plants remaining that are ranked an F in the Coal Blooded Report.
- R Gallagher Plant is expected to stop burning coal between 2019 and 2022, and impacts 60.8% people of color. Michigan City Coal Plant is expected to stop burning coal by 2028 and impacts 29.7% people of color.
- To ensure clean air for all, actions must be taken including retiring coal fired power plants and passing clean air ordinances.

ASTHMA

- In Indiana 620,270 live with asthma. Those that live in counties with unhealthy levels of ozone or particle pollution are at increased risk for asthma and respiratory issues, which lead to missed school days, hospitalization and full respiratory failure. LaPorte, Lake and Marion County have F grades for high ozone days, these counties have high populations of people of color.

FLOODING

- In Indiana, there are more than 270,000 people living in areas at an elevated risk of inland flooding. Indiana experienced six major floods in 2008 thru 2009. The greatest and most destructive flood was in the city of Columbus, which was completed isolated by flood waters for a day. Flood waters affected over 25,000 people and claimed four lives. This flood was Indiana’s largest agricultural disasters, affecting 9% of the farmland. Flood damage exceeded $1 billion.

DOES INDIANA MEET NAACP JUST ENERGY STANDARDS?

TO MEET NAACP JUST ENERGY STANDARDS, INDIANA MUST HAVE A:

- Mandatory Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) with a target of 25% clean energy by 2025 with no nuclear, biomass, or natural gas allowed;
- Mandatory Energy Efficiency Resource Standard per NAACP standards, as defined by: at least 2% annual reduction over each previous year’s average retail electricity sales;
- Mandatory Local Hire Provisions and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Provisions; and
- Mandatory Community Solar Policy, which is legislation that allows communities to take advantage of solar energy.

PROPOSED ACTION STEPS

1. Every Branch will organize an ECJ Committee and chair a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).
2. Indiana Branches will conduct Coal Blooded Action Training/Campaign Training to stop the Coal burning and develop a Just Transition Plan.
3. Indiana Branches should engage with their Local Rural Electric Co-op
4. Indiana Branches should engage in efforts to deploy solar equity projects and community solar projects that will benefit communities.