

IOWA



ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE THREATS

AIR POLLUTION

- Marshalltown and Prairie Creek, coal fired power plants in Iowa averaged a grade D in the NAACP Coal Blood Report. Marshalltown closed and converted to natural gas April 2017. Iowa is 16th in the nation in coal power generation, with 72 operating coal-fired power units at 28 locations totaling 6,492 megawatts.
- To ensure clean air for all, actions must be taken to retire coal fired power plants and to pass clean air ordinances.

ASTHMA

- More than 4 out of 10 people live in counties with unhealthy levels of ozone or particle pollution. This can increase risk for asthma and respiratory issues, which lead to missed school days, hospitalization and full respiratory failure.
- Nearly 70,000 people living in Iowa are especially vulnerable to extreme heat. Des Moines is already an urban heat island, where urban summer temperatures can average more than 20 °F hotter than nearby rural temperatures.

FLOODING

- Iowa, is currently in the throes of major flooding. Iowa, located in the Midwest, has seen a 40 percent increase in rain that has cause flooding when the Mississippi River crest along with a host of river throughout the state. The National Climate Assessment summarizes impact of climate based their assess upon the period between 1958 to 2016, due to increasing temperatures there is an increase in rain and sea level rise. Climate Action and Resilience Planning has to be accelerated.

DOES IOWA MEET NAACP *JUST* ENERGY STANDARDS?

TO MEET NAACP *JUST* ENERGY STANDARDS, IOWA 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. Every Branch will **join** Climate Action Planning Tables and engage in resilience planning.
3. Cedar Rapids Branch will **conduct** Coal Blooded Action and Campaign Training to retire the Prairie Creek plant before 2025 and assess the impacts of 10 coal waste/coal ash ponds.
4. Iowa State Conference will **launch** a release of the Just Energy Report.