



Lutheran Advocacy - Minnesota

Why should we support and work for clean renewable energy?

At a 2023 retreat, Lutheran Advocacy-MN Policy Council members developed talking points for communicating on clean renewable energy. We are sharing these excellent points and invite you to use them in your contacts with local leaders, state legislators, members of Congress, or anyone else. (***Special thanks to Tyler Bublitz, Northwestern Minnesota Synod, for capturing his small group's ideas, and putting them into points to be shared!***)

It is Cost Effective

- If we think long-term about the upkeep and the amount of work to produce something that is not clean vs. clean, we should favor clean because it is more efficient long term and requires less clean-up.

It is a more stable source of energy and more secure

- Energy prices can be volatile due to things outside the control of most residents. Clean energy is not a commodity in the same way that coal or gas is, so should be considered an important investment.
- Clean energy doesn't require reliance on other countries or states, thus making it more secure and creating a more stable energy environment.

It keeps it local and empowers local communities

- Energy produced locally keeps money invested locally. This benefits those local communities economically.
- It is very empowering to be able to see where your energy comes from, and makes you feel like you are making a difference (Example: Food grown in your own garden or made at home may taste better than going out to eat due the effort. In other words, knowing the hard work that went into it and where it came from makes it better appreciated).

It keeps with our Minnesota Identity

- Why are we here? Why do we live here? Many Minnesotans suggest the reason that we endure the difficulties of the seasonal changes here in Minnesota, is due to the natural beauty. Look at how many people who were born in other states choose to move here, in part due to Minnesota's natural beauty. Clean energy helps keep this beautiful place pristine. We need to embrace our love of this place, and that part of our Minnesota identity, and realize that it is one of the many reasons that makes it great to live here. Also, it is a way that separates us from many other states.

It keeps with our Lutheran Identity

- When we look at Genesis chapter 1 and 2, we are told to take care of this place. God may have chosen for us to name each creature, so that we realize our connection to it and relationship with it. It is part of our Christian calling to take care of the environment, and making sure that all our decisions, in all we do, have that care in mind.

Clean Energy is a value add to communities and the state as a whole

- **Health Benefits** – We see and hear many ways that fossil fuels are hard on us as humans, and on our environment.
- **Stability** – Listed above
- **Empowering individuals and the community** – Listed above
- **Healthy Environments** – A healthy environment makes for a more productive environment for all that is in it. I would rather work in a healthy work environment than an unhealthy one.
- **Preserves our Water** – This ties into our Minnesota Identity. We are the "Land of 10,000 Lakes". We better take care of them, so that people actually want to see and enjoy them!

Embrace the Challenge to give Us Hope!

We choose to live in a part of the country that others may consider a difficult place in which to live. This is part of our character. We do not live here because it is easy, and we should not reject clean energy because it seems like it might be difficult to make the transition. Caring for what God has created is an important part of our faith. Faith and hope in something outside of ourselves is not a simple or easy thing but does empower us to take on the difficult challenges that are in front of us to live out our Christian faith in this special place.