

Student press conference.

The Climate Justice League worked to elevate student voices in the conversation about clean energy in Boise. The Climate Justice League listened to a clean energy planning update presented to the Boise City Council before drafting an organizing strategy to mobilize supporters in the Boise School District.



For two weeks in the month of April, the organizers worked to get students in Boise schools to sign postcards and add personalized messages to city leaders. They wanted to thank Boise leaders for their work in creating Boise's energy future and ask them to include a 100% clean, renewable energy goal as part of their efforts. Over the course of two weeks, the students gathered more than 1,000 postcards from fellow students. This time the Climate Justice League wanted to give voice to those signatures and engage the public at large about their message.

With two months of planning, the students pulled off a press conference for 100% clean energy in Boise. The goal of the press conference was to elevate the ask by students for 100% clean energy and continue supporting the work to advance clean energy being done by Boise city leaders. To center the student message, the Climate Justice League worked with leaders Cassie, Katie, Valerie and Khoi to build a big press backdrop that was made out of hundreds of the postcards.

More than 40 students joined to support the messages of our three student speakers and core organizing team and the event was covered by local press. Emily, Therese and Adam handed over postcards to Boise City Council President Lauren McLean, who in turn thanked them for their work and stated her personal support for 100% clean energy in Boise.

"We have to go to 100% renewable energy, it won't be simple but it is possible, places where the challenge was bigger have done it so why can't we?" Adam Thompson



Town hall.

Student empowerment is just as much about getting students voices elevated in public conversations as it is about having students participate in speaking directly to local leaders. That is why the Climate Justice League decided to follow up the success of their student press conference with engagement in a Boise town hall event.

On a Wednesday night at Collister Library, students and more than a dozen other clean energy supporters gathered to show Boise council members their support for 100% clean, renewable energy in Boise.

Emily was the first student to speak and she started by inviting those in the room that supported 100% clean energy to stand with her. The supermajority joined her and the room applauded, including supportive gestures from some of the council members. She then asked on behalf of the 1,000+ plus students on the post cards that each council member speak to their position on 100% clean energy in Boise.

Two other students, Therese and Solenne, asked questions about what Boise needs to do to ensure a just transition to 100% clean energy that includes specific relief and benefits for highly impacted communities through representative leadership and wondered how community members might help Boise address the challenges for a cleaner, more affordable future. Council members took time at the end of the evening to respond to issues folks brought up, and each of them address the issue of clean energy.

All five Council Members in attendance said they support clean energy in Boise and recognize its role in the future of our community. While TJ Thomson said he would like to see this happen in his lifetime, he suggested there are challenges to achieving 100% clean energy. Scot Ludwig did not speak to the issue more than generically, instead highlighting that it was a big issue.

Lauren McLean, Eliane Clegg and Lisa Sanchez all spoke directly about support for 100% clean energy in Boise. Sanchez noted that she had just come from a Public Works Department update on the very subject and told folks that they could trust that energy was a top priority for the City of Boise. Both McLean and Clegg said directly that they supported and were pushing for 100% clean energy in Boise.

Thanks to the work done by students to build clean energy champions, we now have three folks on the city council that have publicly come out in support of 100% clean energy. This public support will be incredibly important as the City of Boise continues to move forward with their Renewable Energy Strategy and engages the public in 2018.

"I want to ask that everyone who is here with me tonight to support 100% clean energy to stand up as I ask my question." Emily Her

