**SAMPLE IDEAS**

Below is some language for your consideration when you advocate for clean energy for Naperville. Feel free to copy and paste and mix and match. These are only suggestions, so use your own ideas as well!

**Information current as of November 2020**

EMAIL TO NAPERVILLE CITY COUNCIL [council@naperville.il.us](mailto:council@naperville.il.us)

**Re: Power Purchase Agreements**

I am a customer of Naperville Electric and want to use clean energy.

I want to use solar panels for electricity but Naperville does not allow power purchase agreements. Without a power purchase agreement I would have to pay thousands of dollars upfront to get a solar system. If I could use a power purchase agreement, then I would not have to pay upfront for an entire solar system.

Please change your rule and let me use a power purchase agreement. It is unfair for Naperville to deny me the use of a power purchase agreement just because I buy my electricity from Naperville Electric instead of ComEd or another utility.

**Re: Coal Power**

I am a customer of Naperville Electric and I want to use clean energy. The electricity Naperville Electric buys comes mostly from burning coal, but Naperville will not let me select an alternative electric company that provides clean energy. And participating in Naperville’s Renewable Energy Program will only increase my bill and do nothing to reduce the amount of coal being burned to supply Naperville Electric.

Please stop buying coal power and start buying clean energy.

**Re: Environment and Public Health**

I am very concerned about the harm caused by the coal and other carbon-based fuels being burned to supply Naperville Electric. I have read that burning enough to supply Naperville Electric emits more than a million tons of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses every year.

Although the emissions do not occur in Naperville, by purchasing carbon-based electricity Naperville Electric is causing these emissions and the resulting harm to the environment and public health. It is unjust for Naperville to export these problems to other communities and not take responsibility.

Please stop buying carbon power and start buying clean energy.

**Re: Cost and Accountability**

I am a customer of Naperville Electric and am concerned that Naperville Electric is not fulfilling its responsibility to monitor the cost of the electricity it is buying to ensure that its customers are not overpaying.

I understand that Naperville Electric buys all of its electricity from the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency (IMEA), and in fact buys far more electricity from IMEA than any other buyer. It is also my understanding that Naperville Electric has the right to get the detailed cost information underlying IMEA’s bills to find out if IMEA might be overpaying its suppliers. For example, I have read that about 40% of the electricity that IMEA sells comes from Prairie State Energy Campus regardless of whether it is competitively priced.

I know that IMEA is technically a non-profit and I am not accusing it of “padding” its bills. But just because it is passing along its costs without adding a profit, that does not mean its costs are competitive or lower than a for-profit. My point is that we won’t know if the costs passed to Naperville are a good deal unless Naperville digs into the details to look at such things as whether the electricity coming from Prairie State is uneconomic.

Please be accountable to your customers by holding IMEA accountable for its charges.

**Re: IMEA**

It is my understanding that Naperville Electric buys far more electricity from its sole supplier, the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency (IMEA), than any other utility buys. It is also my understanding that Naperville is a member of IMEA and when it comes to voting on “power supply planning” Naperville potentially holds more voting power than any other member. Please use your purchasing and voting power to drive IMEA to replace its supply of carbon-based electricity with clean sources.

It seems to me that as the largest “owner” of IMEA, Naperville has the power to transform IMEA from a carbon-based supplier to a clean energy supplier.

EMAIL TO IMEA [imea@imea.org](mailto:imea@imea.org)

I am a customer of Naperville Electric, which buys all of its electricity from IMEA. I see in IMEA’s annual report that almost all of the electricity it supplies comes from burning carbon, mostly coal. As a customer of your customer, I am asking you to please replace that carbon with clean energy sources in order to eliminate the millions of tons of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses being emitted every year when that carbon is burned, and in order to eliminate the adverse health impact on the communities bearing the brunt of those emissions.

I also urge you to closely monitor the generation of electricity at Prairie State and Trimble County to ensure that it is being done economically at the lowest cost to Naperville and other IMEA buyers.

LETTER TO EDITOR

I don’t know if it’s well known that almost all of the residents and businesses in Naperville buy their electricity from the city, which in turn gets it from the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency (IMEA), which in turn gets almost all of it from suppliers burning carbon, mostly coal. That’s the first barrier to buying clean energy in Naperville.

A second barrier is that Naperville prohibits power purchase agreements which would allow its electric customers to contract with solar providers to install solar panels without paying for the system upfront. Instead, Naperville electric customers who want solar power have to spend thousands of dollars upfront to buy their own solar systems.

As the largest buyer of electricity from IMEA and the holder of potentially the most votes at IMEA on matters of power supply planning, Naperville can lead a transformation of IMEA from a source of carbon emissions to a source of clean energy. And as a city it can repeal its own rule against power purchase agreements. Please urge Naperville to take these actions to remove barriers to clean energy.

LETTER TO STATE REPRESENTATIVE AND SENATOR

I live in your district in Naperville. I am writing to express my concern that almost all of the electricity Naperville Electric sells to its residents and businesses comes from burning carbon, mostly coal. This has enormous health and environmental consequences, and may end up costing its customers more than clean energy. Naperville also prohibits solar power purchase agreements and alternative electric suppliers. Because Naperville Electric only provides electricity that is almost entirely carbon based, and it will not let its customers get clean energy elsewhere, Naperville residents and businesses have no way to get clean energy unless they spend tens of thousands of dollars buying their own solar systems.

As a municipal utility, Naperville is exempt from the Illinois Renewable Portfolio Standard so it is not required to use renewable energy. I am writing to ask you to sponsor and vote for legislation that will require municipal and coop electric utilities to be subject to the same Renewable Portfolio Standards and decarbonization mandates as investor-owned utilities, and that will allow municipal electric customers to get clean energy through power purchase agreements and other means.

In particular, please sponsor and vote for the version of the Clean Energy Jobs Act that includes municipal and cooperative electric utilities in its clean energy provisions and prevents such utilities from prohibiting power purchase agreements.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AT NAPERVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING <https://www.naperville.il.us/government/board-and-commissions/city-council-meetings-and-workshops/city-council-speaker-sign-up/> There is a three minute limit.

See EMAIL TO NAPERVILLE CITY COUNCIL

PUBLIC COMMENTS AT IMEA BOARD MEETING

<http://imea.org/BoardMeetingSchedule.aspx> Open the Agenda for the meeting that you want to speak at and follow the directions for registering. It is best to limit your comments to less than three minutes.

See EMAIL TO IMEA.