

# ACTION KIT: ACC TOWN HALLS ON CLEAN ENERGY RULES AND THE “ASCEND REPORT”

## BACKGROUND:

- Utility regulators at the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) are hosting three virtual town halls this week on Tues., Sept. 21st; Wed., Sept. 22nd; and Sat., Sept. 25th to get input from stakeholders like you – in particular, customers of Arizona Public Service (APS) and Tucson Electric Power (TEP) – on its pending Clean Energy Rules and a recent report (the “Ascend Report”) that analyzed the costs of them.
- If finalized later this fall, the Clean Energy Rules will modernize Arizona’s outdated policies for clean energy by enacting new requirements for APS and TEP to deliver 100% carbon-free electricity; expand programs that help customers save energy and money; and issue competitive bids as they invest in a growing power system.
- Unfortunately, the Ascend Report put its thumb on the scales against clean energy by relying on the utilities to conduct the modelling; failing to consider early closure dates for expensive, uneconomic coal plants; assuming gas to be the cheapest option, when in reality it is not; using inflated costs for wind, solar, and battery storage; and ignoring the many benefits of clean energy.
- If the report is allowed to stand unquestioned, it could influence the Commission’s final vote to adopt the Clean Energy Rules or not. And, if regulators fail to adopt the Rules, Arizona will miss out on new jobs and economic development opportunities, as other states in the region adopt far more aggressive policies that hasten their transition away from fossil fuels and to clean energy.

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## TOWN HALL DATES & CALL INFORMATION

While the Commission is hosting these town halls to take public comment on the report, it is also an opportunity to let Commissioners know how much you support clean energy and why they should act immediately to adopt the Rules. ***This moment is crucial, and your input could influence what Commissioners decide to do!***

Tues., Sept. 21 at 6 p.m. PT	Wed., Sept. 22 at 6 p.m. PT	Sat., Sept. 25 at 1 p.m. PT
<p><b>Join via</b> <b>Zoom:</b><a href="https://azcc.zoomgov.com/j/1619423958?pwd=cytTZIFJLzNDa2Eyb0ltRXFnVWxxdz0">https://azcc.zoomgov.com/j/1619423958?pwd=cytTZIFJLzNDa2Eyb0ltRXFnVWxxdz0</a> <b>Passcode:</b> 439386 <b>Webinar ID:</b> 161 942 3958</p> <p><b>Join via Telephone:</b></p>	<p><b>Join via Zoom:</b> <a href="https://azcc.zoomgov.com/j/1611208892?pwd=UGhITFUwR2lrblZOM2JoNUJOdXR6QT09">https://azcc.zoomgov.com/j/1611208892?pwd=UGhITFUwR2lrblZOM2JoNUJOdXR6QT09</a> <b>Passcode:</b> 183367 <b>Webinar ID:</b> 161 120 8892</p> <p><b>Join via Telephone:</b></p>	<p><b>Join via Zoom:</b> <a href="https://azcc.zoomgov.com/j/1612841002?pwd=TGdnUm1vdnh4WjdlelBQTG4wYlY3dz09">https://azcc.zoomgov.com/j/1612841002?pwd=TGdnUm1vdnh4WjdlelBQTG4wYlY3dz09</a> <b>Passcode:</b> 335983 <b>Webinar ID:</b> 161 284 1002</p> <p><b>Join via Telephone:</b></p>

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## INSTRUCTIONS

### CALL IN TO ONE OF THREE SCHEDULED TOWN HALLS TO GIVE COMMENT

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Use the Zoom links or call-in information above to join one of the three town halls.
2. Call in at least 10 minutes early, so you get an early slot in line.
3. Keep comments brief and simple. You will only have 2-3 minutes.

#### SAMPLE SCRIPT:

##### (1) INTRODUCE YOURSELF

- State your name and who your utility company is. If you represent an organization, be sure to mention that too!
- You may need to spell your name and provide the name of the city or town where you live.

##### (2) EXPLAIN YOUR PURPOSE

- I'm calling to urge you to move forward with the Clean Energy Rules without delay. These Rules are in the best economic interest of our state, our people, our economy, and our environment.

##### (3) PICK TALKING POINTS ON AN ISSUE YOU CARE ABOUT OR COME UP WITH YOUR OWN

- ***Renewable energy is good for Arizona, and we need more of it.***
  - It keeps electricity costs low, consistent, and predictable over the long run. This is what Arizona needs for its economy, and it's what ratepayers like me want.
  - We need more homegrown energy. By producing our own energy and diversifying our energy portfolio, we have more energy independence and control.
  - Renewables keep our communities healthy. There's nothing more important than the air we breathe and the water we drink, and renewable energy conserves our precious resources and reduces pollution and emissions that contribute to climate change.
- ***Energy efficiency is the cheapest way to meet energy needs and now is the time to double down.***
  - The cheapest power plant is the one we never have to build. Our utilities need to cut energy waste to drive down our costs.
  - Energy efficiency creates jobs. These jobs pay well, are local, and are in hands-on fields like installation, so they cannot be easily outsourced. We need more jobs like these.
- ***The Energy Rules will keep Arizona competitive.***

- More and more, large employers are demanding clean energy as they evaluate where to expand and relocate. We need policies like the Energy Rules so Arizona remains a good place to do business.
- Arizona is falling behind. The lack of sound policy is giving states like New Mexico and Colorado a competitive edge.

- ***The Ascend Report is flawed and is not independent.***

- It is based on modeling done by the utilities -- enough said. Do you trust APS? I certainly don't.
- The study failed to consider the benefits of clean energy -- benefits that have a real impact on the cost of living and working here, like less water use, less air pollution, and fewer hospital visits and even deaths.
- The study failed to even consider an early retirement of the Four Corners Power Plant, which would realize significant savings for ratepayers. In doing so, the results were baked from the get go.
- The study assumed gas to be the cheapest option and didn't even consider the full range of gas costs we've seen recently. We all saw what happened when the power went out in Texas and Louisiana. Gas prices skyrocketed, and any good modeling should take that into account.

#### **(4) ASK AND THANK**

- I want 100% clean energy as quickly as possible and no further delays. I am asking the Commission to schedule a vote right away and get these Energy Rules passed.

#### **SOME SUGGESTED RESPONSES IF YOU ARE ASKED A QUESTION...**

- ***It is fine to respond "I don't know" or "I'll get back to you."***

- ***About the Ascend Report...***

- You can say you have not read it, but know that the utilities conducted the modeling, which makes it suspect.
- You can say that you know the study failed to examine all of the available options (like an early retirement of the Four Corners coal power plant) which skewed the results from the start.

- ***About whether or not you support 100% carbon free electricity by 2070 or an earlier date...***

- You can say you prefer an earlier date, but also want the Commission to move forward with the Energy Rules right away so that Arizona remains competitive and takes advantage of cheap, clean energy and all of the benefits that it has to offer.

- ***About whether you would support an increase in your electricity rates to pay for the cost of the Energy Rules...***

- You can say that the Energy Rules support more energy-saving programs, require competitive bidding, and include off-ramps, and that all of these provisions will guard against higher costs.
- You can say you expect your bills to go down -- not up -- because energy efficiency is our cheapest option and renewable energy and energy storage are regularly outcompeting other energy sources.
- You can point to the Strategen study on the Energy Rules which found [a \\$2 billion economic windfall for Arizona](#). Unlike the Ascend Report, this model was independent and run without artificial constraints on coal operations.

