




CITY OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

WATER AND LIGHT DEPARTMENT
COLUMBIA TERMINAL RAILROAD

MEMORANDUM

TO: Water and Light Advisory Board

FROM: Tad A. Johnsen, Director, Water and Light 

DATE: February 28, 2013

SUBJECT: 2013 Renewable Energy Report

The renewable energy ordinance states that each year Columbia Water & Light submit a plan outlining the renewable energy portfolio. A draft version of the 2013 report will be reviewed by the Water & Light Advisory Board and the Environment and Energy Commission and their approval or any recommendations will be sent to the City Council. After receiving input from both groups the council is required to hold a public hearing and approve the report.

In 2012, Columbia had almost 8% of the energy portfolio coming from a variety of renewable sources. This exceeds the requirement of 2 % by almost 6%. The report provides details on the various sources of energy along with the cost analysis. In 2013, Columbia Water & Light is expected to have 6% of the electricity provided come from renewable sources which will exceed the new requirement of 5%.

Columbia Water & Light has been pursuing renewable energy sources since the mandate was passed by voter approval in 2004. The ordinance requires the city to increase renewable energy sources from 2% to 5% by 2013, with the ultimate goal of 15% in 2022. The ordinance states that the cost of renewable energy cannot make rates increase by more than 3%.

Last year, 7.94% of Columbia's electric portfolio was generated from renewable sources, including 4.31% from wind energy, 3.11% from landfill gas, 0.51% from waste wood and 0.02% from solar. Columbia Water & Light has kept the cost for renewable energy far below the ordinance requirements.

It is estimated that 6% of Columbia's electric portfolio will be from renewable resources in 2013. Depending on when the third generator is added at the Columbia landfill gas plant, the amount of renewable energy could be higher.

The following is a list of the renewable energy quantities for 2013:

- Wind energy: 2.69%

- Landfill gas: 3.39%
- Waste wood: 0.76%
- Solar: 0.8%

This report has been publicly released on the City Website and reviewed by the Environment & Energy Commission at their March 5th meeting. Staff is requesting that the Water & Light Advisory board recommend to City Council approval of report after a public hearing.