

Background

The PJM Cities Coalition is currently an informal coalition of 18 U.S. cities dedicated to pursuing solutions to climate change, reducing carbon emissions, and removing barriers to low-carbon solutions in their regional wholesale electricity market. Cities within PJM's jurisdiction have partnered together to coordinate their efforts and build capacity among a wider set of cities to influence RTO policies. PJM can support cities in their clean energy efforts by:

- ► Supporting and preserving policies that open markets to zero-emission energy sources and storage;
- ► Ensuring organizational and governance reforms so that cities and other end users can equitably weigh in on key decisions affecting their constituencies;
- Focusing on maintaining access, transparency, and accountability in PJM governance and operations; and
- ► Aligning PJM's long-term planning to be consistent with global climate science, consumer demand for clean energy, and city climate goals.

Cities occupy a unique position when it comes to decision-making and influencing policy. This coalition seeks to utilize that position to better align PJM policy with cities' goals for climate priorities such as carbon reduction, distributed energy generation, and clean energy commitments.

Opportunity

PJM operates the wholesale electricity marketplace, ensures reliability of the electricity grid, and conducts long-term planning for the future of electricity generation and transmission across 13 states and the District of Columbia.

For the first nine months of 2019, coal generation provided 25%, nuclear 33%, and natural gas 36% of total generation in PJM. Solar, wind, and hydro represented 5% of total generation. The existing nuclear fleet is aging and scheduled for retirement, which could lead to a spike in emissions if that capacity is filled by cheap gas generation. Gas generation increased 17% for the first nine months of 2019, an ominous trend for cities seeking deep decarbonization. Coal retirements are continuing, but the current market and rule-making is leading to increased generation from natural gas, potentially locking in emissions and making it impossible for cities and other organizations to meet ambitious climate goals, which depend upon building a carbon-free grid. PJM membership and voting interests are heavily aligned with traditional energy operators, which tend to be slow to change and focused on maintaining the status quo.

Members and Leadership

In the region served by PJM, many cities have ambitious climate commitments that will require transformation of the regional electricity grid. Organizing these cities can help influence the direction of regional electricity grid policymaking to help achieve clean energy goals. As shown in the table below, seven cities that have expressed interest in working together on a PJM Cities Coalition; represent more than 9% of the population served by PJM. 11 additional cities are participating during the coalition-building stage as observing cities and may become more formally engaged as the policy agenda develops.

PJM Territory



PJM Interconnection coordinates the movement of electricity through all or parts of Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

Primary and Advisory Cities

| CITIES | POPULATION |
|------------------|------------|
| Alexandria, VA | 144,301 |
| Chicago, IL | 2,736,000 |
| Cleveland, OH | 390,000 |
| Newark, NJ | 282,000 |
| Philadelphia, PA | 1,568,000 |
| Pittsburgh, PA | 304,000 |
| Washington, DC | 633,427 |

If you have any questions about this project or would like to support these cities, please contact Heidi Ratz, Manager for U.S. Electricity Markets at World Resources Institute.

EMAIL: Heidi.Ratz@wri.org.