

# An equitable, resilient clean energy future for Michigan

A proposed alternative to DTE Energy's Integrated Resource Plan, Case No. U-21193 (IRP)

Prepared by:



Union of  
Concerned Scientists



A **just and equitable** clean energy future for DTE Energy and its 2.3 million customers is within reach. Unfortunately, DTE's proposed Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) falls short of making that future a reality. Using state-of-the-art energy modeling and the latest research from nation-leading experts, we've developed a **stronger, cleaner, more equitable alternative** to DTE's proposal. Our plan represents the **healthy, resilient, clean-powered Michigan** that we know is possible.

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## Retiring polluting fossil fuels

Coal and fossil gas are disastrous for the environment, public health, and our wallets. DTE's massive Monroe coal-fired power plant is the third-largest greenhouse gas emitter in the country — its swift closure should be DTE's top priority.

### DTE's Plan



DTE plans to stop burning coal at its Belle River plant by 2026 and retire half of its Monroe coal plant by 2028, with the remaining half retired by **2035**.



DTE would spend **\$135 million on fossil gas** by converting the Belle River coal plant to burn gas in 2025 and 2026.

### The Clean Energy Plan



Accelerates the retirement of Units 1 and 2 of the Monroe coal plant to 2030, **meeting the state's 2030 coal-free target**.



Illustrates how peaker units that have a disproportionate public health impact can be **replaced with energy storage**.

# Scaling up Renewables and Distributed Generation; Pursuing More Energy Efficiency

Renewable energy such as solar is cheaper, cleaner, and more reliable than fossil fuels — but DTE once again fails to fully seize the benefits and cost savings for customers it provides in our energy transition. Additionally, DTE is targeting only a 1.5 percent average annual savings from its energy efficiency programs despite the fact that it achieved 2 percent savings in 2021 and is on track to do the same in 2022.

## DTE's Plan



DTE placed arbitrary limits on its buildout timeline. The proposal falls short of the state's goal of achieving 60% renewable energy on the grid by 2030, and it puts ratepayers on the hook for fossil-gas power for decades to come.



DTE failed to model local distributed generation as a resource, despite significant research that affirms the value of locally-generated clean energy.

## The Clean Energy Plan



Adds 1,307 MW more solar, 115 MW more wind, and 827 MW more energy storage to Michigan's energy grid by 2030 than DTE's preferred plan.



Adds 540 MW of rooftop solar on customer sites by 2030 by treating distributed generation as a resource through an innovative model that pays customers for the value they provide to the grid.

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## Advancing Energy and Environmental Justice

Low-wealth, Black, Indigenous, and communities of color have historically shouldered the heaviest burdens of our legacy fossil fuel infrastructure, while being last in line to receive the benefits of clean energy. Our clean energy transition must bring everyone along and ensure that economic, health, and environmental benefits are distributed and felt equitably.

## DTE's Plan



Does not include meaningful programs or actions to promote energy justice or an equitable grid transition.



DTE prepared a health impact assessment but failed to provide the necessary context to fully evaluate impacts.



DTE prepared an environmental justice assessment but left out important items and should have done more to use the assessment to inform its proposed course of action.

## The Clean Energy Plan



Includes the modeling of community solar for low-to-moderate-income renters and energy storage batteries for medically vulnerable populations (the "Energy Equity Package" developed in conjunction with Soulardarity and We Want Green, Too).



Includes a more robust public health, environmental justice and energy equity analysis.



Saves more lives and prevents more negative health outcomes.