



DEEP DIVE

Road to 100: How four cities are leading the renewables revolution

Utility Dive visited four U.S. cities powered by 100% renewables, getting local insights on the political will and economic drivers that got them there.

By Catherine Morehouse

Published Dec. 10, 2019

The mounting pressure to decarbonize is causing many cities, states and companies to take a hard look at their electric power sources.

Though the shift is leading the electric sector toward more alternative resources, carbon-free ambitions remain largely ambitions. But six U.S. cities have reached their goals of not just a carbon-free power mix, but a 100% renewable one. Those cities range from less than 1,000 people to around 50,000 and stretch from Vermont to Texas to Alaska. What got them there?

Utility Dive traveled across four of those cities to learn about the people, the policymakers and the partnerships behind these accomplishments and what they can teach us about the power sector's growing transition.

From Rock Port, Missouri, to Greensburg, Kansas, Georgetown, Texas, to Aspen, Colorado, locals shared their insights on the political, technical and economic challenges to 100% renewable

energy and how their cities became global leaders in the renewables revolution. Here are their stories.

Road to 100: How one man's mission to power his hometown by wind created a Northwest Missouri boon

By Catherine Morehouse • Nov. 21, 2019

The town of 1,200 was the first in the country to be able to power all of its electricity from wind resources. Now, the county is booming in wind production.

[Read the full article →](#)

Road to 100: How a demolished Kansas town became a model of DOE renewables resilience

By Catherine Morehouse • Dec. 4, 2019

The destruction wrought by a 2007 tornado gave the federal government an opportunity to build up a fully renewable town in a conservative part of the country.

[Read the full article →](#)

Road to 100: How the shale boom broke Georgetown, Texas' renewables spell

By Catherine Morehouse • Nov. 25, 2019

In 2017, the city of about 50,000 became the largest in the U.S. able to claim it ran on 100% renewable energy. But after customer bills spiked last year, its utility department is facing an overhaul. [Read the full article →](#)

Road to 100: How Western water rights and local billionaires complicated Aspen's renewables path

By Catherine Morehouse • Dec. 10, 2019

Controversy over hydropower in the Mountain West politicized the city's 100% renewables goal, bringing in a wave of opposition. [Read the full article →](#)