Say "NO" to Increased Pollution at NRG's Middletown Power Plant

NRG's proposed turbine replacement will **increase hazardous air pollution** that already affects our residents, especially those with compromised health, and **worsen climate change**.

Contact Governor Lamont and your local legislators, Mayor Ben Florsheim, & Council members and ask them to:

- Honor their commitment[1] to fight climate change and protect public health by **stopping** the proposed changes at Middletown fossil-fuel electricity generation plant and the proposed plant in Killingly;[2] *and by*
- **Investing** in renewable energy, new efficiency measures, and energy storage.

Governor Ned Lamont— governor.lamont@ct.gov

Mayor Ben Florsheim— mayor@middletownct.gov **(860) 344-3401**
Middletown Common Council members— council@middletownct.gov

[1]*Middletown's Climate Emergency Resolution, September 2020.*
https://www.middletownct.gov/DocumentCenter/View/18932/Climate-Emergency-Resolution----8-Sept-2020-Approved?bidId

[2]*The proposed fracked gas Killingly plant will emit the same pollutants as the Middletown plant and put us further away from CT's carbon-free goal by 2040. A pipeline will also harm wetlands and fragile habitat.*
https://energynews.us/2020/12/18/northeast/connecticut-power-plant-proposal-at-odds-with-climate-goals-critics-say/

1/17/21

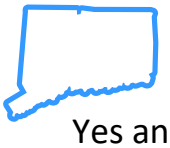
Questions&Answers

What emissions come from a gas-powered plant?

Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) are a precursor to ozone pollution. NOx can cause serious health damage to humans, including respiratory diseases. They also create smog that impairs visibility and air quality. Middletown presently does not meet clean air standards.

Particulate Matter (PM) is a dangerous air pollutant.[3] Prolonged exposure to PM reduces lung function, increases asthma attacks, and causes premature deaths. People living near fossil-fuel plants, especially children and the elderly, are most at risk.

Carbon Dioxide (CO_2) and Methane are major contributors to climate change. Burning fossil fuels like gas, oil, and coal emits CO_2. Large amounts of methane gas (a major component of natural gas) leak from gas pipelines and are released by the fracking used to extract the gas.



Are Connecticut and Middletown committed to stopping climate change and protecting the health of residents?

Yes and No. In 2019, Governor Lamont joined 8 other forward-thinking governors by signing an executive order to have CT's electricity generators be 100% carbon-free by 2040.

In 2020, Middletown's Mayor Florsheim and the Common Council unanimously declared a climate emergency in the city and pledged to address it.[1]

But investing in new fossil-fuel burning generation directly contradicts these goals.

Is it true that a new NRG turbine would be better because it would be more efficient and cleaner than the old one?

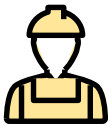
This is only partially true. The new plant would emit 20% fewer nitrogen oxides (NOx). But because it is more efficient, this new turbine would be allowed to run much longer (**182 days**/year versus a few days per year with the current turbine). Particulate matter (PM) pollution would increase by up to **76 tons** per year, and CO_2 would increase by up to **5 times**.

Does CT need more electrical generation?

No. Much of the power generated in CT is exported out of state while *our* residents bear the pollution burden. In addition, peak demand for power (on hot summer days) has declined slightly in recent years due to improved efficiency and use of renewables. Overall CT's electricity consumption has declined.

Is there a financial incentive for NRG to expand the Middletown power plant?

Yes. Middletown's previous administration agreed to reduced tax payments by NRG (from $7 million per year to $2.3 million).



If this and other fossil-fuel projects are stopped, how will that affect the job market in CT?

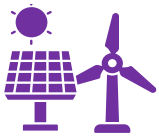
The fact is, renewable power and energy efficiencies generate two to three times more jobs than fossil-fuel projects.

Why should I care about the proposed Killingly fossil-fuel plant?

The proposed Killingly plant, if built, will need a pipeline to connect it to a natural gas supply. The pipeline would pass through vital wetlands and streams, destroying habitat for some of CT's endangered species. Like the Middletown plant, the Killingly plant would produce NOx and particulate-matter pollution and emit CO_2, setting the state back in progress toward its energy, public-health, and greenhouse-gas reduction goals.

Is security an issue with the expansion/construction of these plants?

Yes. Large power plants are a recognized target for physical and/or cyber attacks.[4] We should be using smaller power sources closer to the points of end use. In addition, when power is transmitted over larger distances, we lose up to 5% of the power.[5] Investments in renewable energy and microgrids make communities more resilient to the effects of extreme weather.



What should CT do to provide a clean electrical supply consistent with Middletown's climate-emergency resolution and the state's goals?

Power demand must be reduced through efficiency and the reduced demand met with renewables and storage. Burning more fossil fuels is **not the answer**. Raise your voice to oppose polluting fossil-fuel power plants!

[3] *Particulate pollution: American Lung Association*
https://www.lung.org/clean-air/outdoors/what-makes-air-unhealthy/particle-pollution

[4] *https://ctmirror.org/category/ct-viewpoints/not-just-environmental-problem-killingly-plant-is-a-great-target/*

[5] *https://www.eia.gov/tools/faqs/faq.php?id=105&t=3*

For more information go to: *https://thejonahcenter.org/*