

The way ISO-New England currently operates is not beneficial for communities like New Haven, where I have lived for 20 years and worked on environmental justice issues relating to energy production and distribution. With respect to the management and operation of the grid, far more needs to be done to enhance equity and environmental justice. Current ISO-NE policies neglect the climate crisis and local-state environmental justice priorities while perpetuating our dependence on fossil fuels. The regional grid is not currently managed to embrace viable clean energy technologies or consider the impacts of decisions made by grid operators on vulnerable communities. ISO-New England needs to be completely overhauled to bring more diverse local stakeholders to the table, increase transparency, and reduce the burdens the grid places on consumers and the planet.

ISO-NE's opaque decision-making is stuck in an out-of-date world centered on fossil fuels and maintaining an ethically, economically and environmentally bankrupt status quo. This status quo benefits the owners of today's fleet of polluting plants and is holding the region back from fully achieving a clean energy future. ISO's lack of transparency benefits the powerful incumbent energy companies while shutting out the people most affected by the decisions of elites made in private meetings in far-flung places.

A just New England Energy Vision must consider the cumulative impact of the continued operation of multiple fossil fuel generation facilities operating in low-income and vulnerable communities. It should also consider the cumulative impact of non-energy generating polluting facilities existing in these communities. It should prioritize the attainment of state policy goals for clean energy and greenhouse gas emission reductions. It should support the expansion of renewable energy resources, including community-based sources. It should ensure full consideration of the justice and equity implications of the grid's impacts. Finally, it should make decisions by accounting for all benefits (reducing carbon emissions) and all costs (damaging public health and the climate), rather than ignoring these externalities because it is convenient for protection of the status quo.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely Yours,

Aaron Goode
New Haven Environmental Justice Network
New Haven Bioregional Group