



We pay high Entergy bills when the City Council fails to pay attention.

On Tuesday, February 2, 2021, the New Orleans City Council will hold a virtual public meeting on the recent spike in Entergy bills. This spike may have been avoided with careful attention to cost factors. [Energy Future New Orleans](#) calls on Councilmembers to take five important steps to cut Entergy bills.

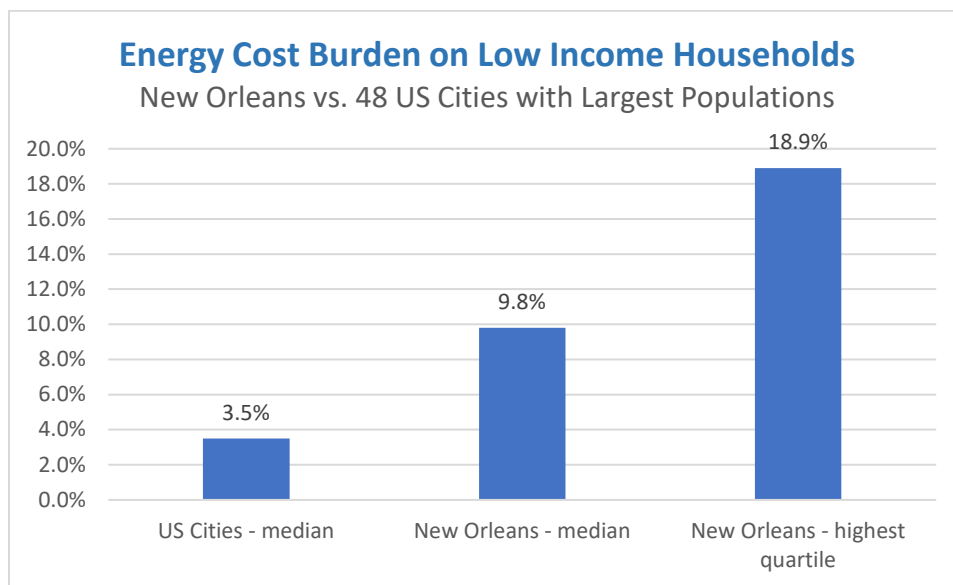
1. Extend the moratorium on electric & gas service shut-offs.

In this COVID-19 pandemic, New Orleans residents and businesses are facing tough financial times, which is now tougher as a result of the recent spike in Entergy bills across the city. Councilmembers should set a moratorium that prevents Entergy from shutting off electric and gas service in this pandemic.

In addition, Councilmembers should consider the facts that: (1) Entergy's earnings grew in this pandemic; (2) Entergy cut \$100 million dollars from operations and maintenance in 2020 for this pandemic; and (3) Entergy has not reported on the amount of funds the corporation has received from the federal COVID-19 stimulus for businesses.

2. Commit to reducing New Orleans residents' energy bills.

New Orleans ranks second among US cities for the highest energy cost burden on low income households that is 18.9 percent of monthly income. Research shows that electric bill costs are not affordable when they are above 6 percent of household income. Councilmembers should commit to reducing Entergy bills to no more than 6 percent of household income in New Orleans.



3. Open an official investigation into whether the cost for the Entergy gas plant should balloon from \$210 million to more than \$650 million.

At the time that the City Council approved Entergy's new gas plant in New Orleans East, the construction cost was estimated to be \$210 million. Beginning in December 2020, Entergy began

billing New Orleans residents and businesses for the gas plant that now has a price tag of more than \$650 million for construction and financing costs over 30 years that may extend beyond the usefulness of the plant. Councilmembers should investigate the gas plant costs to ensure that Entergy's billing is fair and reasonable.

4. Reconsider whether New Orleans residents and businesses should be forced to pay for a nuclear plant in Mississippi that is out of operation most of the year.

Entergy bills New Orleans customers for the Grand Gulf II nuclear plant in Mississippi that has frequent shut-downs. The US Nuclear Regulatory Commission's inspection reports conclude that these shut-downs have caused the plant to generate reduced or zero power 74 percent of the time in 2020, which is expensive. Entergy corporations have either sold or are in the process of selling unregulated merchant nuclear plants in the Northeast because they are aging and no longer profitable. However, for the regulated nuclear plants with poor performance like Grand Gulf II, Entergy billed customers more than \$200 million in upgrades that have not worked.

5. Make low-cost renewable energy available to more New Orleans residents and businesses.

Each month Entergy adds fuel charges to bills. These charges can jump in price for natural gas used to generate electricity at a price that is significantly higher than renewable solar or wind energy. Currently, Councilmembers are considering a renewable portfolio standard for New Orleans that would make solar and wind energy as well as energy efficiency available to more people in New Orleans. The Council should adopt a standard that requires all electricity to be generated from renewable energy by the year 2040, which would bring New Orleans up to the standards established in most parts of the United States to reduce bills and clean up our environment. The Council should not allow Entergy to stand in the way of renewable energy.

Don't miss the City Council virtual meeting on Tue., Feb. 2 at 10:00 am

Live Stream of Meeting:

<https://council.nola.gov/home>

Live Television Broadcast: Cox Cable Channel 6 in Orleans Parish

Make your voice heard

Submit your comment to the City Council at <https://council.nola.gov/meetings>.

You can submit a comment prior to the City Council meeting and during the 15-minute recess after the agenda is read.

ENDNOTES

- Step 1
- Anthony McCauley, "[Entergy's profits surge by 50%-plus despite coronavirus crushing the local economy](#)," NOLA.com, July 29, 2020.
 - The Motley Fool, "[Entergy Corp. \(ETR\) Q1 2020 Earnings Call Transcript](#)," May 11, 2020.
 - Ben Wershkul, "[Here's what's in the \\$2 trillion coronavirus stimulus deal for businesses](#)," Yahoo Finance, Mar. 26, 2020.
- Step 2
- ACEEE, [Lifting the High Energy Burden in America's Largest Cities](#) (Tables 4 & 5, Figure 4) (2016).
 - ACEEE, [Understanding Energy Affordability](#) (2019).
- Step 3
- Michael Isaac Stein, "[Entergy's \\$210 million gas plant could cost customers more than \\$650 million, advocacy group says](#)," The Lens, Aug. 9, 2019.
- Step 4
- Edward Klump and Kristi Swartz, E&E News, "[Miss. plant raises concerns about nuclear power](#)," Jan. 6, 2021.
- Step 5
- Energy Future New Orleans, [Resilient + Renewable Portfolio Standard](#).
 - Daniel Tait, "[Entergy Threatens City Council in Push Against 'Resilient Renewables'](#)," Energy and Policy Institute, Dec. 6, 2019.