

[POWER](#): An Interfaith Movement

10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY
POWER
CELEBRATE JUSTICE!

www.powerinterfaith.org

April 20, 2022

We the undersigned organizations ask that City Council instruct Philadelphia Gas Works (“PGW”) to invest in Thermal Network Advance Engineering work in FY23 as proposed by POWER Interfaith (“POWER”) in its [testimony](#) regarding PGW’s FY23 Capital Budget.

Thermal networks, also known as networked geothermal systems, were one of three recommended business diversification initiatives in the recent PGW Business Diversification Study. It is the option with the highest amount of stakeholder support as reflected in the Business Diversification Study and the option that received the most support at City Council’s recent hearing on the Business Diversification Study.

However, PGW’s FY23 Capital Budget does not contain any funding to advance a thermal network business diversification initiative. This is unacceptable, given the urgent nature of the climate crisis and the energy affordability crisis. A budget is a moral document, and it must reflect moral priorities. We must begin the process of transforming PGW now in order for Philadelphia to meet its climate goals, ensure that residents can afford their energy, and protect PGW workers.

City Council will have an opportunity to correct this problem in its ordinance establishing PGW’s FY23 Capital Budget. City Councilmembers should include in the ordinance a requirement that PGW perform the Thermal Network Advance Engineering Work proposed by POWER in FY23. This should be done as part of approving PGW’s capital budget because it relates to preparation for potential future capital investments by PGW in thermal networks. POWER’s proposal is detailed in its [testimony](#), but essential elements include:

- A commitment to invest an amount not to exceed \$500,000 on thermal network advance engineering work during FY23 to prepare for a thermal network pilot, including identifying potential sites that maximize low-income benefits and identifying means of maximizing involvement of PGW workers and their union
- Selection of a contractor to perform the thermal network advance engineering work by a request for proposals (“RFP”) administered by the Philadelphia Energy Authority
- A commitment to prepare a thermal network pilot proposal as part of PGW’s proposed FY24 capital budget
- High standards of transparency and inclusion, including involvement of community organizations in the design of the RFP, the selection of the RFP winner, and the performance of the work

Signatory Organizations:

1. **By Grace Alone Christian Reformed Church** – Rev. Gabriel Wang-Herrera, Servant Lead Pastor
2. **Centennial Parkside CDC** – Chris Spahr, Executive Director
3. **Chestnut Hill United Church** – Kipp Gilmore-Clough, Associate Pastor
4. **Church of St. Martin in the Fields Episcopal** – Carol Duncan, Deacon and Chair of Local Organizing Committee
5. **Clean Air Council** – Joseph Otis Minott, Esq., Executive Director and Chief Counsel
6. **Clean Water Action** – Maurice M. Sampson II, Eastern PA Director
7. **Climate Witness Project** – Rev. Allen Drew, CWP East Coast Regional Organizer
8. **Delaware Riverkeeper Network** – Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director
9. **Drexel Dayenu Circle** – Atara Saunders, Organizer
10. **Faculty and Staff Federation of Community College of Philadelphia (AFT)** – Junior Brainard, Co-President
11. **Friends, Peace, and Sanctuary Journal** – Yaroub Al-Obaidi, Co-Chief Editor
12. **Geodelphia** – Mehdi Entezari, President & Founding Member
13. **Hunting Park Community Revitalization Corporation** – Charles Lanier, Executive Director
14. **Hunting Park Community Solar Initiative** – Rev. Allen Drew, President
15. **Hunting Park Christian Academy** – Kevin Deane, Head of School
16. **Make the Road PA** – Myriam Ramirez, Organizer
17. **Neighbors Against the Gas Plants** – Lynn Robinson, Director
18. **PennEnvironment** – David Masur, Executive Director
19. **PennFuture** – Jacquelyn Bonomo, President & CEO
20. **Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light** – David Heayn-Menendez, Executive Director
21. **Philadelphia Neighborhood Networks** – Tim Brown, Organizing Director
22. **Philly DSA** – Shawn Hogan, Chair
23. **Philly Thrive** – Shawmar A Pitts, Strategy Organizer
24. **Physicians for Social Responsibility PA** – Tonyehn Verkitus, Executive Director
25. **Reclaim Philadelphia** – Corey Reidy, Climate Justice Caucus Lead
26. **Sierra Club - Southeastern PA Group** – Emily Davis, Secretary
27. **Spirit and Truth Fellowship** – Frederick Harvey II, Lead Pastor
28. **Summit Presbyterian Church** – Rev. Cheryl Pynch, Pastor
29. **Sunrise Philly** – Ella Israeli, Core Leadership Team
30. **Tabernacle United Church** – Katie Aikins, Pastor
31. **Unitarian Universalists of Mt Airy Congregation** – McKinley Sims, Lead Minister
32. **Vocatio Career Prep High School** – Christina Johnson, Executive Director
33. **8th Street Community Church** – Andy Kim, Pastor