

Testimony for EPA hearing on proposed standards for carbon emissions from new power plants
Presented by Edwin Luevanos, CEO of Citizen-Energy
February 6, 2014

Good evening and thank you for the opportunity to provide my comments. My name is Edwin Luevanos and I'm the CEO of Citizen-Energy, LLC.

Citizen Energy is a growing energy consulting start-up, which I joined last year after working for the U.S. Department of Energy. We deliver energy saving solutions for commercial buildings and are currently servicing the State of Florida and the District of Columbia. From lighting upgrades to envelope upgrades, we've now worked on close to 100 buildings.

As a father of a 5 year old girl, I couldn't ask for a more rewarding job! I am proud to be part of the solution to build a more sustainable future for her and the next generation. Citizen Energy has helped building owners improve building efficiency and cut their carbon footprint by at least 30%. We've made the business case and persuaded them to invest in clean energy technologies. My business partners and I are committed to drive these results even further, and have begun to look at the business opportunities provided by distributed solar development. As you may know, solar has the highest potential than any other renewable, capable of reducing carbon emissions in the U.S. by up to 25% by 2030. We are looking to accelerate this by building community solar facilities and providing solar access to 'unserved' communities like renters, who can't install solar panels at their leased homes.

We are doing our part, and I applaud the work of the EPA and president Obama to do their part, and finally limit carbon pollution from power plants, which until now are free to spill uncontrolled amounts of carbon dioxide into the air we breathe. These regulations couldn't come any sooner! The science is settled; we know that human activity, specifically our burning of fossil fuels to generate energy, is a main driver of climate change.

We hope that utility companies will look at these regulations as an opportunity rather than a burden. This is an opportunity for them to look towards renewable energy as serious part of their portfolio, and strategy to carbon emissions. This is good for our environment, health and for our economy; it would give a real incentive for entrepreneurs to start more companies like mine so we can do our part in steering our nation toward cleaner, sustainable, and safe sources of energy.

We are counting on the EPA to establish clear and strong standards for carbon emissions from new power plants now and move firmly toward doing the same for existing plants. Our new economy and future generations are counting on you to act.