

**From:** Craig Russell <crussell9293@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 19, 2024 2:01 PM  
**To:** Peter Weldon <peterjweldon@outlook.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Renewable Energy Question

Hey Pete,  
My apologies for not seeing the instructions in your email. See my response attached.

Best,  
C. Russell

**Should the city pay more than a competitive price for electricity? YES or NO.**

**If yes, why?**

My answer:

**NO**

What is best for Winter Park is for us to first complete undergrounding our power lines and then provide reliable electric service at the lowest price wherever it comes from. As a new commissioner, I couldn't commit money to a more expensive option, particularly knowing the budget will be significantly tighter the next few years.

We should reinvest in what we already have to enhance our community. The ideology of mandating renewable energy is a thought process from a small group of residents of the city, not the full spectrum of our community. Investment should be in smart growth which includes mixed land uses, creating a range of compatible housing opportunities for people and families of all income levels, and encouraging community and stakeholder collaboration in development decisions. The existing contracts are a good balance between the environment and the cost to our electric customers. Taking on a long term unpredictable debt that requires such a large financial commitment is not fiscally responsible.

Best,  
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