



# Electricity generation st george

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In this file photos, Electricians with St. George Energy Services tend to a power pole following a power outage, St. George, Utah, March 30, 2017 | Photo by Mori Kessler, St. George News

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ST. GEORGE -- The origins of the power that allows residents to turn their lights on and run appliances likely isn't one of the questions on their minds when going about their day. However, city officials say those origins and their diversification creates a stable and sustainable system the city can rely on.

Sustainability and renewable energy use was a part of questions recently asked to candidates running for St. George City Council. Incumbent candidate Dannielle Larkin mentioned the city's 10-year energy plan and how the city was moving away from consuming fossil fuels.

"A lot of forward planning goes into this 10-year plan," Dial said, adding the plan involves buying long-term contracts from various energy providers in order to lock-in pricing for a set amount to time. As well, the city goes for multiple sources of energy beyond the fossil fuels, like hydroelectric, solar and natural gas.

The advantage that long-term contracts and diversification of energy sources bring is a stable source of power and energy costs. It lowers the risk of energy disruptions and relying too heavily on one source of power, Dial said.

Granted, certain sources of power can force the city to look to the market to buy additional power. That happened when the City Council approved what it called a "minimal" power rate increase in March to cover the cost of buying additional power to offset a loss in power generation at the Glen Canyon Dam. Power from the hydroelectric dam had gone down due to lowered water levels at Lake Powell caused by drought.

Concerning coal-driven power, while the city has been moving away from that source, it remains a notable part of the city's energy portfolio. Nearly 24% of the city's energy came from coal plants in 2021, according to data shared by the city. By 2030, the city plans to have moved away from coal entirely.

Bringing it back to the 10-year plan, Dial said it is a great example of the value of planning ahead and ensuring customers will have the power they need, when they need it.

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