

For Immediate Release
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**Progress Muscatine Releases “Environmental Stewardship - A Farce at Muscatine Power and Water”
Episode Eight of *Know Better. Do Better.***

(Muscatine, Iowa) “[Environmental Stewardship - A Farce at Muscatine Power and Water](#)” examines MPW’s 2023 Annual Report, and its energy transition plan, which MPW says will allow them to continue to be “good stewards” of the environment.

MPW supports this statement with a chart of declining carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions. CO2 is a heat trapping greenhouse gas. It is a byproduct of burning coal, and the largest human caused contributor to climate change.

“By replacing coal with natural gas, MPW is trading one hazardous situation for a more hazardous situation,” said Jessica Brackett, President of Progress Muscatine, a 501c3 non-profit.

Know Better. Do Better. Episode eight, presents, “The short list” of problems with Muscatine Power and Water’s perspective:

1. MPW presents CO2 emissions from the combustion of coal, and leaves out emissions from extraction, processing, and transport. Three-fourths of coal’s life cycle is not acknowledged or measured.
2. CO2 reduction is the only environmental measurement MPW presents, while hazards to human health, animal health, property, and the environment are well documented throughout coal’s life cycle.

3. Coal ash waste is leaking from MPW's landfill and they have no plan to add a synthetic liner. Adding a synthetic liner is common practice, and a legal requirement for new coal ash landfills.
4. 4% of all new grid capacity in the U.S. in 2024 is powered by natural gas, this is a decline from 20% in 2020. On June 25, 2024, MPW will vote on a plan to add a new generating unit powered by natural gas.
5. Natural gas is 70%-90% methane. Methane is a greenhouse gas known as a "super pollutant" because it is 80 times more powerful at trapping heat compared to CO2. MPW provides no information about how much methane will be released to achieve their plan.
6. Radioactive material is a byproduct of fracking (extraction) of natural gas. MPW provides no information about the amount of radioactive material that will be produced to achieve their plan.

"MPW is ignoring the hazards caused by their current work, and future plans. At 4% of new generation, decision makers across the country have gotten the message - natural gas is a poor choice when building new generating capacity, said Brackett, "at 94%, wind and solar with batteries are where energy producers are investing."

At the MPW Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday, June 25, a vote is expected on two significant issues: a plan to build a natural gas powered CHP plant, a strategy in alignment with 4% of all new U.S. grid capacity in 2024; and a steam sales contract with Grain Processing Corporation, the one MPW customer in need of steam produced by the CHP plant.

In April 2024, the board meeting time changed from 5:30pm to 4:00pm. All meetings are in the MPW auditorium. Public comments are welcome.

Know Better. Do Better. is an educational video series prompting viewers to observe a problem or situation, learn something, and visualize a better path forward.

The mission of Progress Muscatine is to empower Muscatine County residents to identify problems and work toward sustainable solutions for the common good.

All episodes of *Know Better. Do Better.* can be found at www.ProgressMuscatine.org or on [YouTube](#).