

# Water – Energy Nexus



Presentation for  
Austin City Council Candidates Briefing  
April 22, 2014

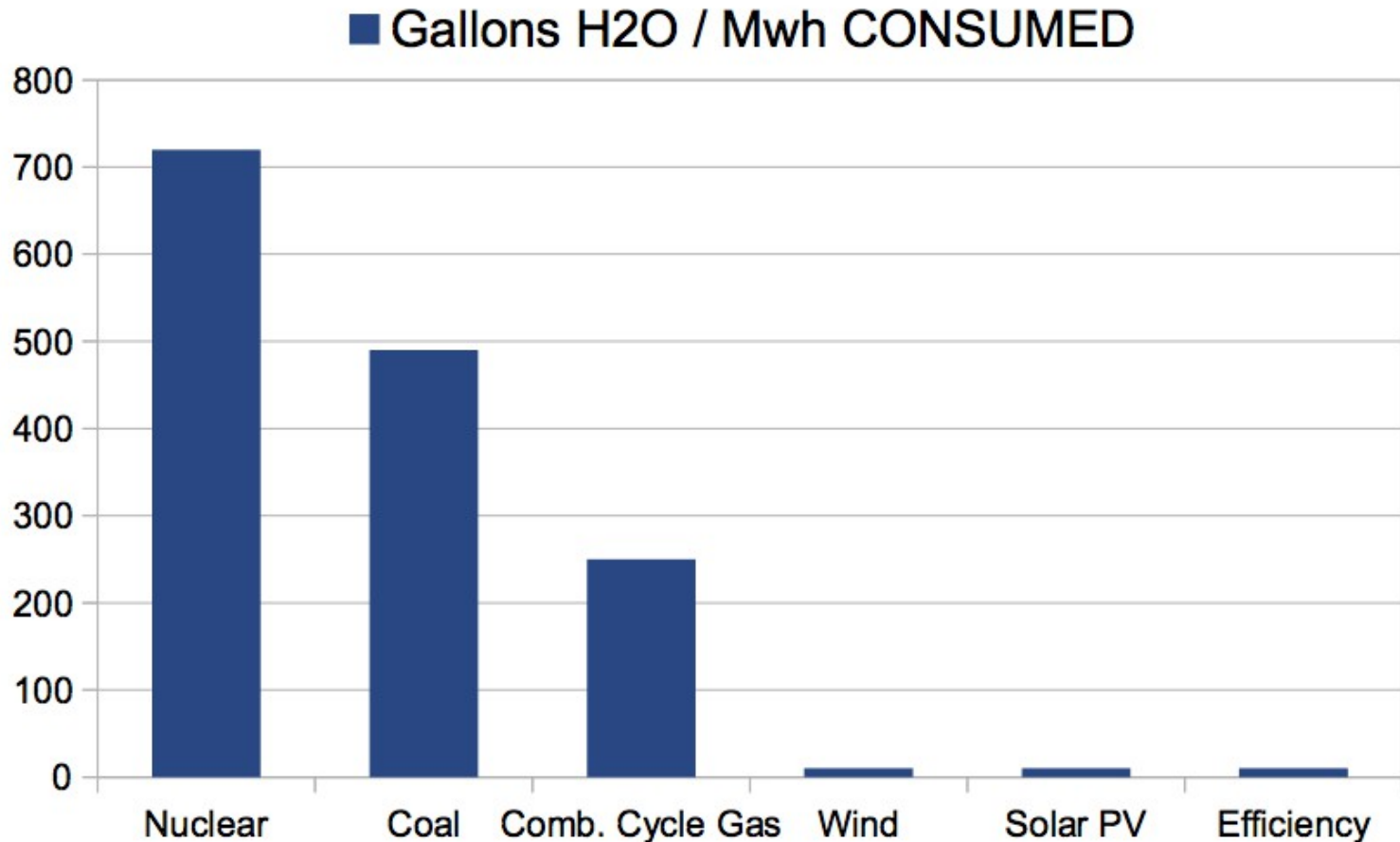
# Climate Change is Water Change

- Rising sea levels
- Melting ice caps & glaciers
- Loss of ice shelf in Greenland
- Declining snow melt & diminished inflows into rivers
- More extreme storm events
- MORE EXTREME DROUGHT
- Competition for water in Texas is sharpening!

# Conventional Sources of Energy are Water Hogs

- 85% of US power plants heat water to create steam for turbines
- They cannot function without massive amounts of reliable water
- 2% of this water is lost to evaporation (consumed)
- LCRA estimate: 20% of all water withdrawn from CO River downstream of Austin is for power plants.

# Water CONSUMED by Energy Source



# Energy Efficiency and Renewables are Water Conservation Strategies!

- AE's efficiency programs by 2008 saved 800 MW of peak energy demand AND saved at least 370 million gallons of water per year
- 2009 projection from AE: 2020 Plan (35% renewables) would lower water consumption per Kwh by 21%. Actual reduction to date: 38%!

# Clean Water Action's Role: Mobilizing the Community

- Candidate questionnaire & possible endorsement, GOTV
- Ca. 9000 postcards and letter to council members for stronger solar programs, winter 2011-12
- Ca 15,000 postcards to council for solar in 2003

# QUESTIONS?

Contact:

David Foster

[dfoster@cleanwater.org](mailto:dfoster@cleanwater.org)

512-474-2046

[www.CleanWaterAction.org](http://www.CleanWaterAction.org)