

SOCIETAL SYSTEMS, PLAYERS AND RELATIONSHIPS: IN CLASS DISCUSSION

Learning Outcome: Learn about the complexity of societal problems and develop ability to recognize complexity in context (LO2)

Secondary Outcome: Develop an understanding of players, systems, relationships, and power dynamics that exist when tackling a societal issue. (LO2a)

Directions: Consider your responses to the *civic identity* exercise. Using that civic lens, evaluate the scenario below. You may be assigned a specific role to play within the community during our in-class discussion. With that in mind, try to review the scenario through multiple lenses. Use the following questions to help you analyze the scenario.

- Consider the different perspectives and issues that arise in this scenario. What democratic methods could help tackle the issue?
- Are there any facts that could help tip the scales on the issue (e.g., wind speeds and frequency, energy deficiency, etc.)
- Who, if anyone, is in a position of power? Explain the position and the type of power.
- Whose voices have an outlet and how might you devise an approach to elevate all impacted parties?

Given below, what do you think will happen? How do you think this will play out?

SCENARIO

There is an energy shortage in Detropolis City. The Mayor will not be renewing its energy contract with Enerex which expires next year. Enerex has not been able to keep up with the city's energy needs, only offers oil heat, and is not sustainable. So, the City and Mayor put out a request for proposals (RFP) seeking energy companies to bid for the city's energy contract. The RFP includes an option to build a production facility on a large parcel in a lower income, predominantly minority (74% Black) section of the city. The following groups of people have offered their opinion on the different RFPs.

State agencies: energy department and environmental agency,

Mayor: wants to bring in nuclear power (big tax \$\$); jobs

Public/government sector

Some lower-income residents support the nuclear power plant contract for the promise of jobs. concerned about wind energy plant translating to jobs going to neighboring city residents

Some middle-income residents want wind turbine to connect to neighboring city grid

Not for Profit Organizations: *environmental*—pushing for windy city contract, and *environmental justice advocates*—mixed on which corporation to support

Local/Indigenous Populations

Local commty/ civil society

Media: *Journalists* with Detropolis Times, and *Tik Tok Influencers* are watching the energy contract process closely

Media

Nucleonis Corporation: wants to go to Detropolis because the taxes are lower than other cities and states, and because the RFP includes a land lease there is more land available

Windy City Corporation: They are excited because this is the first really significant contract they have been close to securing.

Private sector (for profit)