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Coal Free IU welcomes Board of Trustees with choice for energy future: Clean or Dirty?

Students show images of the impacts of coal from mining to waste disposal and highlight clean energy solutions for the future of campus.

Bloomington, IN: This Thursday students with Coal Free IU welcomed the Board of Trustees to their spring meeting with an unlike display. Students flanked the hallway leading to the board room, each holding story board pieces and images showing the nature of IU's dependence on coal as well as the images of what the future of IU could look like if the university invested in clean energy sources for campus.

The images, ranging from coal mines and mountaintop removal to last summer's coal train spill, slurry impoundments, children with inhalers and clean energy such as rooftop solar, wind and geothermal were meant to display the reality of IU's current energy policy, its implications and the opportunity for a transition to non-polluting clean energy sources.

Coal Free IU President Megan Anderson said "We are sharing these images and this story board today with Indiana University Trustees because we think it is important for our administration and decision makers to see the true impacts of our practices here at IU. We are calling on administrators, who are entrusted with the future of our campus, to make positive decisions, to begin implementing clean energy solutions that match the needs of our expanding campus, as well as match the vision our community has for a clean energy future, a future that isn't compromised by the use of a finite, destructive, and polluting energy resource. We are calling on Indiana University to make a commitment to move beyond coal."

This event comes on the heels of last week's delivery by Coal Free IU of a bill for over \$4 million in externalities associated with the coal plant. Students met in the IMU at 8:30 am to pass out information, collect petitions from fellow students and engage with board members as they arrived. The administration had previously indicated that the IU Integrated Energy Master Plan was to be released during this meeting but was instead pushed back due to other pressing plans needing approval. The students with Coal Free IU held the event to signify that although the board will not be presented with this

important document, students are still watching the university and its energy decisions and are calling for action to end coal use at the Central Heating Plant.

Coal Free IU member and IU freshman Amanda Loch said, “As a student I find it troubling that the board of trustees would put our health and safety on the back burner. It makes me feel like our well-being isn’t a priority. Having a coal plant on campus negatively affects students, communities, and the environment and I would like to ask that the Board makes both its students and its state a priority.”