

Section 1:

#1 Strengths: Your opening statement clearly establishes urgency and frames renewable energy as both a moral and economic issue. You effectively set the tone for your argument.

Weaknesses: Vague introduction → Your opening paragraph uses generalizations without specific local context relevant to the council. Phrases like "unprecedented climate crisis" and "our future depends" need more specific relevance to the council's jurisdiction and responsibilities. Exemplar: ***I am writing regarding our community's urgent need to increase investment in renewable energy. As our region faces increasing energy costs and climate-related challenges, transitioning to renewable energy offers both environmental benefits and economic opportunities for our local area.***

#2 Strengths: You effectively present evidence about job creation and economic benefits, linking renewable energy to practical outcomes beyond environmental concerns.

Weaknesses: Missing local relevance → Your examples focus on international and national statistics without connecting to the council's specific region. Phrases like "12 million people worldwide" and "Germany's Energiewende" don't demonstrate direct relevance to the council's jurisdiction. Exemplar: ***The renewable energy sector already employs thousands across Australia, and our region is perfectly positioned to benefit from this growth. Communities like ours that have invested in solar and wind projects have seen new jobs, increased council revenue, and reduced energy costs for residents.***

#3 Strengths: You address potential counterarguments about cost, showing you've considered objections to your position. Your concluding statement is confident and forward-looking.

Weaknesses: Lack of specific request → Your conclusion doesn't include clear, actionable steps for the council. Phrases like "bold leadership" and "transition to a clean, sustainable, and prosperous energy future" don't specify what exactly you want the council to do. Exemplar: ***I respectfully request that the council allocate \$200,000 in next year's budget for renewable energy projects, beginning with solar panels on council buildings and a feasibility study for community wind power. These specific investments would save an estimated \$40,000 annually in energy costs while positioning our community as a leader in sustainable development.***

■ Your persuasive letter shows good understanding of the topic but would be more effective with local examples that matter to the council. You need to make it clear why this matters to their specific area and residents. Also, your letter would be stronger if you included a clear request with specific actions the council should take. Try to include practical first steps that seem reasonable and achievable. You might also mention how other similar councils have benefited from renewable investments. Your evidence about economic benefits is good, but needs to

connect directly to the council's priorities like jobs, savings, or community benefits. Try adding a personal touch about how this issue affects you or other local residents. Finally, remember that councillors are busy, so make your main points even clearer with perhaps some simple formatting like bullet points for your key requests.

Score: 42/50

Section 2:

Subject: The Urgent Need for Renewable Energy Investment

Dear Council,

#1 I am writing to urge you to consider increasing investment in renewable energy. As we face an unprecedented climate crisis, the transition to renewable energy is not only a moral imperative but an economic opportunity. The evidence supporting the benefits of renewable energy is irrefutable, and I strongly believe that our future depends on the choices we make today.

First and foremost, the impact of renewable energy on reducing carbon emissions cannot be overstated. According to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IREA) [IRENA], renewable energy could prevent up to 4.3 billion tons of carbon dioxide emissions by 2030, which is equivalent to taking 900 million cars off the road. This shift would dramatically reduce our carbon footprint and slow the rate of global warming. In addition, solar and wind energy have already demonstrated their cost-effectiveness, with wind energy alone seeing a 70% drop in cost over the past decade, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

#2 Moreover, investing in renewable energy fosters economic growth. The renewable energy sector already employs over 12 million people worldwide, and this number is expected to double by 2030, according to the International Labour Organization [Organisation] (ILO). Countries that have committed to green energy policies, such as Germany, have seen significant economic growth and job creation in their renewable energy sectors. Germany's Energiewende (Energy Transition) has not only reduced its reliance on fossil fuels but has also positioned the country as a global leader in the green technology market.

Some critics may argue that the shift to renewable energy is too costly, especially in the short term. However, this concern fails to account for the long-term savings and benefits. According to a report from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), the cost of inaction—continuing to rely on fossil fuels—will far exceed the initial investment in renewable infrastructure. In fact, every dollar invested in renewable energy could generate up to \$3 in long-term savings due to reduced healthcare costs, lower environmental cleanup expenses, and decreased reliance on imported fossil fuels.

Furthermore, the long-term effects of continued dependence on fossil fuels—such as rising energy prices, geopolitical instability, and health-related costs—far outweigh any short-term financial concerns. If we allow this resistance to change to persist, we are locking ourselves into an increasingly unsustainable system that will only grow more expensive and dangerous over time.

#3 To be clear, renewable energy is not just an environmental necessity—it is an economic catalyst that will drive innovation, create jobs, and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come. The time to act is now.

Thank you for your attention to this crucial matter. I am confident that with bold leadership, we can transition to a clean, sustainable, and prosperous energy future.

sincerely [Sincerely,]