

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Save Morgan Valley Expands Community Campaign Opposing Proposed Natural Gas Plant

Linn & Benton Counties, Iowa — May 19, 2026 — Community members across Eastern Iowa are joining together through Save Morgan Valley to oppose the proposed Morgan Valley Energy Center, a 720-megawatt, natural gas power plant planned near Highway 30 and Linn-Benton Road. Organizers say the project raises serious concerns about air quality, public health, environmental impacts, rural development, and the future of surrounding communities.

What began as a local response from nearby residents has quickly grown into a broader regional movement focused on protecting farmland, wildlife habitats, water resources, and the health and quality of life of local families.

“People from across the area are speaking up because they care deeply about where they live and the health of their families,” said Jon Lee, member of Save Morgan Valley. “This is about protecting our families, our environment, our clean air, and our future.”

Save Morgan Valley has been actively organizing petition drives, educational outreach, public meetings, and community events to inform residents about the proposed project and encourage participation in the Iowa Utilities Commission review process.

The organization says many residents remain concerned about:

- Air pollution and emissions associated with fossil fuel infrastructure
- Health impacts tied to industrial emissions
- Increased industrialization in rural areas
- Noise and light pollution affecting nearby homes and residents
- Water consumption demands from large industrial facilities
- Impacts on wildlife and local ecosystems
- Long-term changes to the landscape and quality of life in the region

Organizers say residents living in the 10-mile impact zone are especially concerned about how industrial emissions and around-the-clock operations could affect children, older adults, and individuals with asthma or other underlying health conditions.

The group is also encouraging local governments and residents to engage directly in the regulatory process and ensure community concerns are part of the public record by submitting opposition to the Iowa Utilities Commission under docket number GCU-2026-0002.

“Our communities deserve transparency and a meaningful voice in decisions of this magnitude,” Lee said. “Residents should not feel powerless when projects with permanent impacts to public health and the environment are proposed in their backyard.”

Save Morgan Valley continues to gain support through community partnerships, social media outreach, and local events aimed at raising awareness about the proposed development and its potential impacts on Eastern Iowa communities.

More information, upcoming events, petition opportunities, and Iowa Utilities Commission filing instructions can be found at savemorganvalley.com.

Media Contact

Jennifer Kellison

Save Morgan Valley

Email: jenkellison@gmail.com

Phone : 319-360-6645

Website: savemorganvalley.com

About Save Morgan Valley

Save Morgan Valley is a grassroots community organization advocating for the protection of rural communities, public health, farmland, natural resources, and wildlife in response to the proposed Morgan Valley Energy Center project in Linn and Benton Counties, Iowa.