

Dear Energy Planning Advisory Board Members,

A coordinated energy policy for the State is incredibly important. The most expeditious way to forge our way forward is to apply a wide spectrum of energy efficiency support programs. Central to this will be an aggressive education program. Now is the time to Increase funding for programs. We have just begun to see the dramatic increase in energy prices.

There should be a statewide program to create tax credits for home owners and business owners that buy energy efficient equipment and facility improvements. There should be a broad based outreach program to actually bring the word about the financial rewards that are to be gained by investments in energy efficiency. There should also be inducements to expand the rebate programs offered by utilities to their customers for installing any energy saving devices. The net metering program should be made as simple and quick as possible. Currently my experience has been that the utilities make the process as arduous as they can to discourage homeowners.

A possible tool to bring these ideas to the public's attention could be websites that would graphically show the energy saved in a city or town. Quantifying and aggregating the gains made can make a powerful impact. Imagine a United Way like graphic that would show the dollars saved in the course of a month.

Now is the time to take aggressive action. In the long term this can bring great benefits.

I am a member of the Concord Conservation Commission and an alternate to the Merrimack County Conservation District. I have been an energy conservation advocate for decades.

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