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RE: Public Forum on Core Energy Efficiency Programs

Dear Executive Director Howland,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Core Efficiency Programs. We serve over 600 members primarily owners of single family homes in the Plymouth region. We conduct 1:1 site visits teaching our members about available resources and the importance of energy efficiency and renewable energy.

We believe that RGGI funds should impact both electrical and fossil fuel savings. We also believe that renewable energy systems that generate electricity should also be seen as a form of "saving electricity" and at the very least the Core Program funds should promote renewable energy systems. (ie: on NH Saves Website).

We support the continuation of the following Core Program activities:

1. Continue the Home Performance w Energy Star Program using the Home Heating Index as the qualifier. Consider finding ways to reduce other funding (*Is a printed NH Saves catalog necessary anymore?*) making HPwES the primary recipient of Core Program funding.
2. Continue using RGGI funds to supplement federal money for weatherizing the homes of families in need with a concrete plan to REDUCE their fuel assistance by a portion of the expected energy savings.
3. Continue On Bill Financing for the HPwES co-pay.
4. Continue NH Saves website. The Energy Profiles are a nice addition to the website.

Please consider:

1. Making Button Up NH workshops a regular activity of the Core Programs. Work with NH non-profit organizations to fund at least 25 workshops annually to take place statewide presented by BPI Certified Building Professionals. This informative workshop is an excellent way to promote the benefits of energy conservation and energy efficiency while introducing the public to Core Program resources.
2. Supporting professional training and provide financial aid to HPwES contractors and independent auditors to acquire and renew their Building Performance Institute professional certifications.
3. Funding My Energy Plan.net with a \$10,000 annual budget. A great deal of work went in to developing this website. It is popular, attractive and easy to use but it needs to be updated and maintained. UNH continues to host it on-line but there are no funds to maintain it. The Green Homes Tourist section gives real life examples of energy retrofits and renewable energy installations. The Energy Connector is a valuable list of local contractors. It would be good to link My Energy Plan.net to the NH Saves website.

Thank you for your time,

Sandra Jones
Co-Director

The Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative (PAREI) was organized to encourage energy conservation, energy efficiency practices and promote the use of renewable energy in homes, businesses and other buildings in the Plymouth region through education, community outreach, accessibility and service coordination. The Initiative was formed with the goal of sharing the model as it develops with other communities nationwide.