

To the members of the PUC,

I urge the PUC to give strong consideration to including incentives for thermal renewable energy in the NH RPS.

We cannot meet climate or renewable energy goals in NH, by focusing on electricity alone. NH is one of the most petroleum dependent states in the country when it comes to heating; with thermal energy representing more than one-third of all energy consumed in NH. Reducing demand for fossil fuel to heat homes, and businesses represents one of the most cost effective ways to meet our state's clean energy goals.

Fortunately, New Hampshire leads the New England states in the adoption of geothermal heat pump technologies[1] as a means to reduce demand and provide base load thermal energy to NH consumers.

This is not a fluke, it's because PSNH and others have made it attractive to consumers to invest in their future. Over a system's lifetime, the direct energy savings are two-fold greater than the investment and lever other indirect benefits by a factor of four.

We need more incentives and loan programs to drive adoption by spreading the high first costs and achieving substantial penetration for energy efficiency. It just makes sense.

In light of the recent escalation in fuel oil prices, those lucky New Hampshire families who switched to geothermal heat pumps are saving thousands of dollars per year, keeping more money in our local economy as opposed to sending it to Venezuela or some other unfriendly country.

All the best,
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Managing Member

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[1] Per capita basis based upon US DOE EIA 2009 data and 2010 US Census