

Compiled Public Comments  
Mailed or Emailed to the Kansas Energy  
Council  
September 10 – October 19, 2007

I oppose any wind turbine development in the Flint Hills of Kansas. We must preserve this important virgin tallgrass prairie from wind development.

*Follow-up comment:* Given the asset that the Flint Hills are to the state and the fact that 98% of the only remaining tallgrass prairie in all of North America is in Kansas' Flint Hills, I would really like to see the KEC recommend a protective policy for the Flint Hills.

Sue Ice, Newton, KS

My name is Dan Nace. I live in St. Louis but have my roots in Kansas - El Dorado and Cottonwood Falls.

My mother (who passed recently) loved the Flint Hills and introduced them to me at a young age. They've been an inspiration my entire life.

In that regard, all I can say when it comes to energy is, yes, we need alternatives to fossil fuels (and conservation, something few want to do). But everything has its common sense limits. With wind energy, it should stop short of ruining rare, spectacular and unspoiled land and viewsheds such as the Flint Hills.

Zoning laws have been established in most of the country to assure that one, or a few, in an area can't blight it for everyone. Seems a reasonable approach to assume just a few land owners in the area should not be allowed to blight those amazing and rare hills (last 2% native grassland of its kind left in the world) at the expense of everyone else.

There are plenty of developed or commercialized areas in Kansas that could entertain windfarms. Please use your heart and your head to preserve for future generations what they cannot preserve for themselves right now.

And preserve for all of us a majestic Flint Hills. It's the right thing to do.

Thank you sincerely,

Dan Nace  
St. Louis, MO

I did have one question and one comment on #3, Amend Existing Laws relating to Energy Efficiency Standards ... the question is I'm sure there was a reason for putting "the 2006 IECC code" rather than language that just says "the most recent" so you won't have to change the statute every time the code is updated. Do you remember what the rationale was? And, when you do clarify some of the language for the city and county adopting energy efficiency standards, it should be very clear that the State approved code

is the minimum and the city or county cannot adopt codes that require less but can require more. You also need to clarify whether or not a multifamily building is residential or commercial... Each apartment in the renters name is definitely residential but the common property area and the owner/management firm's account is normally commercial.

Sue Nathan  
Applied Energy Group  
Midwest Office  
Off: 816-222-4452  
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snathan@appliedenergygroup.com

I would like to express my strong interest in seeing Kansas aggressively pursue conservation and efficiency options before any more largescale power plants are considered for approval. It is well known that the cheapest, quickest, cleanest power source available lies in conservation opportunities. These should be priority items in any comprehensive energy plan for the state, if such a thing is ever conceived.

Specifically, I would like to see every attic in the state insulated--via no-cost loans or outright grants--before any new power plants are approved. Additionally, power cost monitors (similar to program in Massachusetts) should be made available to every utility customer so that the real usage is immediately recognizable...

If these programs are substantial and serious, they should certainly be allowed in the rate base, allowing a return on broadly beneficial investments.

Sincerely,

Ann Simpson  
Fairway KS 66205

Most people do not know about the WAP program, therefore more information needs to get out to the homeowners and the businesses that do the work for them. This would enable more homeowners to take advantage of these grants.

We saw no mention of grants, tax credits, rebates, or net metering addressed in this draft. Kansas residents who want to install renewable energy sources need incentives to help offset the costs incurred in the installation of small wind and solar.

For example (taken from The California Energy Commission): California has adopted the Emerging Renewables Program, to reduce the net cost of on-site renewable energy systems to end-use customers, to stimulate demand and increase for small wind and solar. These systems may not be owned by an electrical corporation or public utility.

They must be grid connected and comply with all electrical codes and interconnection requirements. All systems must carry a 5 year manufacturers warranty. Equipment sellers must be licensed contractors in good standing. The rebates for small wind are \$2.50 per watt for first 7.5kw and \$1.50 per watt from 7.5kw to <30kw.

The other hot topic is net metering. If net metering were administered in a fair trade value, this would give the residential co-generator an incentive. For example: a 5 cent buy-back rate on a retail rate of 7 cents. As utility rates go up, then the buy-back rate should go up accordingly. Keep in mind that what we are trying to achieve is for private RESIDENTIAL applications. Technology has come a long way in small wind generators. Kansas residents want to install these systems, but they need to be given a fair market value for the electricity that they produce, or be given tax credits or rebates of some kind.

If Kansas wants to be a leader in renewable energy, the time to act is today. Please encourage our legislature to take steps to help the small wind and solar, and not just what the big utility companies want. We need to work together. Small wind should be kept separate from the mega-wind, because they are different.

Thank you,  
Bill Smalley  
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smalleyenergy.com

*Note: Mr. Smalley submitted additional comments that are included below, p. 11.*

October 4, 2007  
509 W. 14<sup>th</sup> St.  
Hays, KS 67601

Kansas Energy Council  
1500 SW Arrowhead Road  
Topeka, KS 66604



Dear Council Members:

I am pleased to hear that you are considering state policy recommendations that focus on energy conservation. For too long, there has been a pervasive, mistaken perception that energy issues can only be affected from the supply side. In fact, energy conservation — sensibly reducing demand — is well documented to be the simplest, most-economical, and least-painful means of increasing our collective energy availability. But energy conservation is not simply about installing and using more efficient gadgets, it's also about educating all of us to be more cognizant of our own energy behaviors and how they financially and environmentally impact ourselves, other people, and all other life.

I understand you are proposing energy-conservation education for public schools (K-12). This is an excellent idea, but should be taken a step further. . . to our universities. Living in Hays and spending some time on the FHSU campus, I see abundant opportunities for very substantial energy savings with minor behavior modifications. Staff (particularly janitors), students, and even faculty seldom consider their behavior relative to energy use. Janitors often turn every light on in an entire wing of a building for hours while cleaning one room at a time. Faculty seldom turn out lights in classrooms even though they may know the room will not be occupied in the next period after their class. Students rarely turn out lights and often run showers (at least in the locker room) for lengthy periods — wasting both energy and water.

I think it would be very effective for every university staff and faculty member, as well as all incoming students, to be required to take a 3-5 hour (2 evenings) short course on energy/environmental stewardship at the university. In the course, they would learn of the implications of energy waste to themselves and all of us. This might include financial costs to themselves (tuition, dormitory housing costs), costs to the environment (people, wildlife), and possibly even social and moral responsibilities associated with energy use.

Again, I applaud your desire to promote energy conservation. This is long overdue and is the best way for all of us to help tackle this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Randy Rodgers

PS: I also hope that you will recommend the adoption of "net metering" in Kansas so homes or businesses with solar panels (or small wind turbines) can sell any excess electricity they produce back to the utility by having the meter run in reverse.

Juliana Tran  
1725 Ohio Street  
Lawrence, KS 66044

Liz Brozius  
Kansas Energy Council  
1500 SW Arrowhead Road  
Topeka, KS 66604-4027

October 15, 2007

Dear Ms. Brozius,

My name is Juliana Tran and I am a student at Kansas University. I am in agreement with the proposal for legislative action towards the energy plan and recommendations for legislative actions drafted by the Kansas Energy Council. I think it is very important to improve efficiency in infrastructures in order to conserve energy and passing legislation in order to uphold these improvements. The most important recommendation I found was the funding for energy conservation education for children in grades K-12. Teaching these ideas early on in children's lives will set up ideals, more mindful, and conservational living for a child to live by. Environmentalism and conservation is a lifestyle, and conserving resources will be important for the children of our future.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Juliana Tran

Lauren Keith  
951 Arkansas Apt. C5  
Lawrence, KS 66044

Liz Brosius  
Kansas Energy Council  
1500 SW Arrowhead Road  
Topeka, KS 66604-4027

Dear Ms. Brosius,

I am writing to commend the Kansas Energy Council's recommendations to the state government. I especially hope that the Legislature takes note of the first proposal that will help low-income Kansans reduce their energy bills and improve the efficiency of their homes. This is serving a great deal of environmental justice to a demographic that usually does not even receive a passing glance. By targeting this demographic, the KCE will drastically enhance the lives of these people and teach important lessons about energy conservation.

I also strongly encourage the KEC to promote its second initiative of providing funding for teaching energy conservation in schools. If young children are taught to reduce waste, Kansas will be on its way to becoming an environmentally aware state. Future generations can change the wasteful ways that adults practice today, simply because they were not taught otherwise.

Again, I applaud the council's proposals. If passed, I believe these proposals will finally send Kansas on its way to becoming a truly green state.

Sincerely,  
Lauren Keith

Sam Gleeson  
1614 Kentucky ST.  
Lawrence, Kansas 66044

Liz Brosius  
Kansas Energy Council  
1500 SW Arrowhead Road  
Topeka, Kansas 66604

Dear Ms. Brosius,

I have been reading over the recommendations put forward by the Kansas Energy Council for increasing energy efficiency in our state. I have to say that the proposals all sound very effective in terms of being able to increase efficiency state wide through a variety of different methods. I am currently studying environmental science at the University of Kansas so am very active and interested in ways that energy use can be reduced in our state and nationally. I think that these steps will make Kansas into a good example that other states will hopefully follow. I am especially interested in the recommendation to fund energy efficiency education in the schools. I think that educating children is one of the most effective ways at making long lasting fundamental changes to our society. The energy question is definitely a long standing question that we are dealing with and that generations to come will be dealing with. Thank you for your time and thanks to the entire Kansas Energy Council for there efforts in reducing the amount of energy used in our state.

Sincerely ,  
-Samuel Gleeson

Brian W. Sifton  
2413 Ousdahl #16  
Lawrence, KS 66046

Liz Brosius  
Kansas Energy Council  
1500 SW Arrowhead Rd.  
Topeka, KS 66604-4027

October 15, 2007

Dear Ms. Brosius:

I would like to comment on the recent KEC draft recommendations for the Kansas legislature. Concerning the recommendation to expand weatherization assistance to low income households, I think that this is not only an important energy issue, but an important social issue as well. The portion of the population who would have the most to gain from reduced utility bills is often the one least likely to have the resources to invest in residential upgrades. In addition to the reduction in utility costs for the homeowner, and the reduction in the externalities caused by the production of electricity, homeowners will generally benefit from increased indoor air quality. Because many of the people who would use this service are elderly and/or disabled, this is especially important.

Concerning the recommendation to provide funding for energy conservation education, I think that it is imperative for any government agency that wishes to address societal concerns to include an educational component in their programs. Use of electricity is easily detached from the externalities it causes, and it is important to address that disconnect at all age levels...especially children. If the government of Kansas wishes to make headway on their long-term goals of energy conservation, this is perhaps the best investment. Because such a strong partnership has already been created between the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education, educators, and state agencies, the investment in this program will exclusively create gains in the form of education for young Kansans and not program start-up costs.

Concerning the recommendation to amend the existing laws relating to energy efficiency standards for commercial and industrial structures, I think that while programs should be included in the states energy policy to redress past missed opportunities regarding energy conservation and to rectify depreciation, new buildings must strictly adhere to the International Energy Conservation Code so that these issues can be avoided in the future, to the extent possible. Clarifying K.S.A. 66-1227 so that builders will be held accountable is absolutely necessary.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Brian W. Sifton

Heather Weed  
1400 Tennessee no. 2  
Lawrence, Kansas 66044

Liz Brosius  
Kansas Energy Council  
1500 SW Arrowhead Rd.  
Topeka, Kansas 66604-4027

October 15, 2007

Dr. Ms. Brosius,

I am writing concerning the Kansas Energy Council's recommendations for updated energy policies in Kansas. As an Environmental Studies student and member of the club Environs at the University of Kansas I support these proposals because they address the issue of energy conservation in creative ways.

Concerning the adoption of energy efficiency standards for all new publicly funded structures: Governor Sebelius made this an important issue by including it in her Executive Directive 07-373. It is incumbent upon the state government to spend taxpayers' dollars wisely. Because publicly funded buildings are not built to last just ten years, and the average payback time on energy efficiency improvements in LEED or IECC certified buildings is now ten years or less, there are benefits to be gained from including energy efficiency in the design stage of publicly funded buildings. Because upfront costs are often times the focus of cost comparisons when deciding on a project, and long term operation costs are only a tertiary consideration, it is necessary to make sure long term cost comparisons are necessary for all new publicly funded buildings.

Concerning the expansion of existing low-interest revolving loan programs to facilitate adoption of energy conservation improvements by all Kansans: The intention of the KEEP program to provide low interest loans to low and middle income families to improve the quality and efficiency of their homes is very important to maintaining a quality housing stock in the state, and discourage overgrowth in the new housing sector. The state was willing to provide their portions of loans with no interest, contingent upon the bank accepting the loan, and charging a small interest rate. Because the state was willing to provide loans to low and middle income families with no interest, there is no logical reason why they wouldn't offer loans to higher income families with modest interest rates. Theoretically, these families would be less risky debtors and the state would gain a revenue stream.

Concerning the development of programs to promote voluntary adoption of residential energy efficiency codes by local units of government, I believe that this is one of the most effective means of improving residential energy efficiency. By building efficiency into the local codes for buildings, the source point for a lot of potential energy reduction

is addressed directly. At the local level, building efficiency standards would be able to be enforced with relative ease compared to addressing it at the state or even county level. Because homes use so much of the electricity produced in this state, we could see substantial decreases in the negative externalities created by fossil fuel-produced energy by enforcing building codes that include efficiency.

Sincerely,  
Heather Weed

## INCENTIVES FOR RESIDENTIAL RENEWABLE ENERGY

Currently, Kansas has no incentives or tax credits to offer residential customers who want to invest in renewable energy sources such as wind and solar. If we are to move forward and be a leader in the quest for renewable energy production, then the State must act now to initiate tax credits, grants, rebates, or net metering for residential applications. Kansas residents who want to install small wind and solar to their homes or farms need help to offset the costs incurred.

New technology has allowed the small systems to be grid-connected and therefore be co-generators to the bid electrical companies. The big banks of batteries are eliminated, as are the issues of high maintenance. These systems are UL approved and safe. The wind generators contain their own inverters, with no parts to replace or maintain.

The State needs to encourage its' residents to "go green" by helping them by providing incentives. For example: (taken from The California Energy Commission) California has adopted the Emerging Renewables Program, to reduce the net cost of on-site renewable energy systems to end-use customers, to stimulate demand and increase for small wind and solar. These systems may not be owned by an electrical corporation or public utility. They must be grid connected and comply with all electrical codes and interconnection requirements. All systems must carry a 5 year manufacturers warranty. Equipment sellers must be licensed contractors in good standing. The rebates for small wind are \$2.50 per watt for first 7.5kw and \$1.50 per watt from 7.5kw to <30kw.

Rebates are one idea. Tax credits or grants are other incentives. The other hot topic is net metering. If net metering were administered in a fair trade value, this would give the residential co-generator an incentive. For example: A 5 cent buy-back rate on a retail rate of 7 cents. As utility rates go up, then the buy-back rate should go up accordingly. Residents who install these systems need to be given a fair market value for the electricity that they produce. Remember, residential electrical customers have been paying the utility companies for transmission lines in their electric bills. To keep costs down, there should only be one meter socket and no charge for meter change-outs.

Private residential customers will generate on a completely different level than those of the mega wind farms. Please consider these differences when making legislative decisions this coming year. If enough families are able to co-generate, it will reduce the need for new coal fired plants, which means less pollution, less fossil fuel consumption, and less waste of precious water. This could be a win-win situation if addressed properly.

### **Smalley Heating & Cooling**

#### ***Renewable Wind & Solar Energy***

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Bill Smalley  
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6849 NW Rochester Rd.  
Topeka, KS. 66617

Kansas Energy Council Hearing  
October 10, 2007

My name is Jennifer Byer. I was born and raised in Kansas. I am proud to say that my roots here run deep. My great-grandfather, grandfather, and uncle all made their living farming and raising cattle in Elk County. Farming must not have kept my grandfather busy enough, though, because he also served as a Republican member of the Kansas House, and later of the Senate.

I am a K-State graduate, a teacher, and most important, I am the mother of two boys. As parents, my husband and I have the obligation and the privilege of working to safeguard the environment that our children will inherit from our generation. It is a responsibility shared by our elected leaders, whom we entrust with the power to enact environmental and related energy policies that will protect, not jeopardize, the well-being of future generations.

By now, it is clear that the long-term health of the environment is inextricably tied to energy production and consumption. Polluting, non-renewable energy sources such as coal, while perhaps once seen as tried-and-true, can no longer serve as the foundation of our energy policy. This approach neglects the changing environmental and economic realities with which our children will contend. We can do better, and for our children, we must do better.

It is well-known that Kansas' environment will benefit from expanded development of our abundant wind resources. It is equally clear that the economic benefits accompanying such development will provide the economic boost needed in many rural communities.

Today, my uncle lives on the family farm, and he and my mother share ownership of some of the original acreage. A couple of years ago, financial concerns forced them to consider selling some of this land. Today, a stretch of pasture is being developed as a wind farm. The lease agreement reached with a wind energy developer allowed my mother and uncle to keep their land and reap ongoing financial benefits. With a state energy policy to encourage such development, farmers and ranchers across wind-rich western Kansas can do the same.

The economic advantages of wind can ripple through entire regions. Abilene, Texas, and surrounding communities are experiencing huge economic gains from new wind energy development. The rise of this industry is revitalizing small businesses and creating new industry-related employment in construction, manufacturing and distribution of goods. Wind is not only a sustainable source of energy; it's a sustainable source of income. Kansas' energy policy must encourage community-level and large-scale development of this abundant resource.

Finally, comprehensive, long-term energy policy in this state must highlight energy conservation and energy efficiency incentives. Energy *not* produced and consumed and money *not* spent on the purchase of energy should be a key focus of a state energy plan. There is no simpler, more cost-effective, more environmentally sound measure that we can take.

For better or for worse, the repercussions of energy policy decisions will be felt for generations. Our children count on the wisdom of the decisions we make on their behalf. The right choice isn't necessarily the easy choice. But we're Kansans; we are up to the challenge. I urge you to make renewable energy, and energy conservation and efficiency key elements of a comprehensive state energy policy.

Jennifer Byer

8308 Juniper  
Prairie Village, KS  
66207

January 29, 2007

Energy and Utilities Committee

Rep. Carl Holmes, Chair

Hearing regarding HB 2219

Comments submitted by:

Jennifer Byer

Co-Chair, Environment Committee

True Blue Women