

From: [Lenny Thomas](#)
To: [comments_EMP](#)
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One of the first things that needs to be added to our energy plan is a concerted effort to reduce our energy demands. Retrofitting older structures with better insulation, windows that regulate the transfer of heat and light according to climate conditions are essential. Passive measures like rooftop gardens can do much to mitigate the extremes of climate, as well as, add to visual appeal.

Fossil fuel heating systems must be phased out. They are not efficient and add greatly to our pollution load. These retrofits will more than pay for themselves in fuel savings and health benefits over the long run. Changes in the energy efficiency would lessen demand for new sources of energy.

Regulations should be in place to encourage more green buildings with valid sustainable features, not just white paint on the roof to get a higher Leeds number.

Community recycling should be part of these plans to reduce the cost of landfills and incinerator solutions for trash.

Replacement of fossil fuel burning energy centers should be a priority, especially in EJ communities. The previous policy that forces the location of fossil fueled plants in these neighborhoods have led to exploding rates of heart disease, cancer, asthma, and autism, as well as, many other health problems while there are no benefits to them in the cost of energy or financial benefits from its production. The cost of energy production inefficiency and the hidden costs in healthcare caused by pollution make this mandatory.

The need for more reliance on solar, wind and wave fueled energy plants are obvious, but investment in hydroelectric systems where they don't impact negatively on the environment are important. One such system might be the installation of hydroelectric generating systems in gravity fed water source systems. Much of this resource goes untapped and pilot projects have showed very promising.

Lastly, New Jersey doesn't need to become a transit state for fracked fossil fuels. Past policies have been placed our cities and much of our watershed regions at risk. We always receive assurances of safety that are not kept. Accidents in that operation have consequences that have negative effects that last for decades.

In summation, we have to have an energy plan that is sustainable and causes no harm to the environment and the health of all our citizens. A plan which includes reducing energy demands as well as develops renewable sources of energy production.

Leonard Thomas

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