

**League of Women Voters New Hampshire**  
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**Concord, N.H. 03301**

New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning

RE: Draft State Energy Strategy

The League of Women Voters NH appreciates the opportunities all our citizens have been afforded to hear about the proposed energy strategy in the public hearings across the state and to submit comments. We were impressed by the turnout and the questions asked which is indicative of the interest they have in seeing progress made in New Hampshire.

It was discouraging to learn that efforts in New Hampshire are not forecast to meet its renewable portfolio standard of 25% renewable energy sources by 2025. This goal set in 2009 needs much more support by our Legislature. The economic benefits from reducing our reliance on imported fuels would keep more money in New Hampshire and this seems to be an obvious step to pursue.

The League would support and recommend a concerted effort to meet the 25 by 25 goal as a minimum. To continue this emphasis, the next Legislative session should be encouraged to:

- 1 Promote low and non-CO2 emitting customer-sited distributed generation of energy as described in the Climate Action Plan developed by DES and proposed to guide state energy policy in 2009. This includes net metering, and favorable rules for interconnected renewable generation systems with the grid.
- 2 Pass legislation to encourage development of a smart micro grid that leverages electric plug-in hybrid technology that can be programmed to charge when demand is lowest or when intermittent renewable generation such as wind is available. We know the needed technology has already been improved, solar panels are much more common and less expensive, and some towns have permitting rules for individual windmills.
- 3 Improve rule-making for RGGI that supports comprehensive education for consumers, more help for building efficiency upgrades and rewards renewable generation of power
- 4 Pass a carbon tax on consumers to encourage less dependence on fossil fuels and needed improved efficiencies that would add to the benefits of RGGI for supporting increased rehabilitation of older homes and businesses as well as public buildings.
- 5 Encourage as much solar installation as possible on buildings when roofs need repair and require it for new buildings.
- 6 Support increased development of regional mass transit including park and ride lots with plug-in ports for electric car charging in the remaining parts of N.H. without them.

Although we recognize that the implementation of the recommendations above will take time and recognize that the production of affordable and accessible energy is critical to the state, the League of Women Voters has serious reservations about expansion of transmission infrastructure for carbon based fuel. Although recommended in the plan, an expansion is expensive and once in place would not be shut down or eliminated easily. Therefore, an expansion would support continued – and long term - use of fossil fuels.

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