

Summary of Energy Services Conference Group Policy Recommendations

Most groups concluded that under current price conditions energy programs served too narrow a portion of the Philadelphia population. Although an increase direct government funding for various energy conservation programs remains a popular cause, new and innovative recommendations focused on:

- devising financial incentives to invest in weatherization or get a weatherization education;
- building civic campaigns to greatly expand conservation education;
- expanding conservation programs to underserved populations, and;
- enforcing universal standards for weatherization of rental properties.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION

- 7 Expand energy conservation education programs.
- 4 Expand current energy education programs to other income groups.
- 4 Build civic campaigns for more energy education, involving volunteers and simple weatherization.

WEATHERIZATION

- 6 Financial incentives for consumers to invest in their own energy conservation, and/or energy education.
- 6 Increase funding for various purposes to existing energy conservation programs.
- 4 Expand energy conservation services to underserved populations such as seniors, tenants, and youth.
- 3 Fund and/or require more basic structural repairs like roofs that enable more weatherization.

CODES & STANDARDS

- 5 Establish and enforce new building standards for weatherization for all rental units or new leases.
- 2 Promote or require energy star appliances or home treatments.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

- 2 Fund renewable energy projects.

Detailed Group Proposals

Group 1

Public Service Messages

Involve city ECA and utilities in ad campaign through broadcast media and Septa.

More funds for low-income people to help with roofs and weatherization.

Supplementary state/city LIHEAP funds for households that agree to participate in weatherization education or are mandated to get weatherization education .

Group 2

Community education in schools and churches. Recruit volunteers and train teachers and trainers.

Incentive programs such as tax incentives, utility rebates, and free audits to conserve energy and weatherize.

Develop a weatherization certificate to qualify households for rebates.

Lobbying network list serve to alert about PUC rule making and LIHEAP policy.

City funding for a renewable energy demonstration project.

Group 3

Expand weatherization programs to moderate and middle income households including tenants.

Give Philadelphia its fair share of LIHEAP funds based upon its portion of the state's low-income qualified households.

Increase the availability of "energy star" efficiency appliances.

Expand weatherization and conservation education to targeted groups such as new immigrants, first time homebuyers, and tenants/landlords.

Expand the white roof program.

Group 4

Fund an education component added to every government and utility bill payment and conservation program.

Give all seniors access to all energy conservation and bill payment assistance programs.

Require that all homes are structurally sound.

Provide incentive grants for every household that borrows to weatherize their home, combined with financial literacy education, and liberal credit requirements. .

Target more programs for tenants, seniors, and youth.

Reduce the Weatherization Assistance Program waiting list with more public funding.

Fund shared housing for seniors.

Add more energy conservation methods to our conservation programs that are being tried in commercial buildings.

Group 5

Energy education for low, moderate, and middle income households.

Target more programs to meet the needs of oil consumers.

Send a portion of benefit checks from TANF, PHA, and subsidized housing directly to the utility.

Require landlords to be accountable for weatherization of their units.

Group 6

Require landlord to weatherize in order to rent out apartments.

Require and fund energy conservation and education for all LIHEAP and CAP recipients.

Increase public transit use rewards and/or incentives.

Increase car share programs.

Government provides tax credits for weatherization.

Fund renewable energy projects to sell back electricity to the utility grid by 2009.

Reduce public transportation costs to consumers.

Group 7

Landlords and new home owners must get property certified as properly weatherized before authorized for occupancy.

Address the energy needs of households over the 150% of poverty level.

Provide home energy action teams with training, materials, and support to weatherize their own homes.

Utilities provide consumers with financial incentive to reduce power consumption from the prior year, coupled with new resources for teaching basic weatherization skills.

Mandate use of "Energy Star" products and weatherization in all affordable housing renovations.

Group 8

Require all landlords renting to new tenants to have their buildings meet weatherization standards by passing inspections.

Require all home sellers to have their buildings meet weatherization standards by passing inspections.

Large scale weatherization education supported by government and civic groups for every income group and every neighborhood. Involve thousands of volunteers, such as block captains and use an each one teach one method. Get all major hardware retailers to donate materials for this campaign.

Apply the energy efficiency tax credit to all income groups even if they don't pay taxes, even including including those that earn an earned income tax credit.