

**Energy Conservation in Appleton
1980-81**

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ENERGY CONSERVATION IN APPLETON

I. REGULATIONS:

- A. Should the City of Appleton pass a solar access law? If so, what provisions should be included?
- B. When a building is to be sold:
 - 1. Should a written disclosure of energy use over the previous 12 months be available to a potential purchaser?
 - 2. Should an energy audit be required? If so, who would perform it?
 - 3. Should a building be required to meet minimum standards of energy conservation before sale?
- C. Should future subdivision plats be required to encourage energy conservation and solar energy use by their design? If yes, what should be considered?

II. TAX INCENTIVES AND/OR SUBSIDIES:

- A. Should local government offer tax incentives to encourage energy conservation and renewable energy use?
- B. Should local government offer subsidies to encourage energy conservation and renewable energy use?

Consider these categories:

- 1. Residential (general public, low income, multiple family)
- 2. Commercial
- 3. Industrial
- 4. Transportation
- 5. Solid Waste

- ### III. What should local government expect of itself?
- Should city codes, policies, and ordinances be reviewed and revised to insure they encourage and/or do not discourage energy conservation?

- ### IV. What should the Appleton League of Women Voters do to encourage energy conservation?

(Information: US and Wis. offer tax credits and direct refunds for certain renewable energy systems; wind and active solar energy systems are exempt from local property taxes until December 31, 1995, provided the system meets Wis. Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations standards.)

Energy Study: CONSENSUS

Twenty-eight members were present at the March 1981 units.

Energy conservation is crucial in Wisconsin, a state that imports more than 90% of its energy. League members believe that there is an important role for local government in energy conservation, both in the actions it takes and in the example it takes. Local government should review and revise all of its local codes, policies, and ordinances to promote energy conservation consistently, not inadvertently discourage it. Members favor flexibility in the interpretation of existing zoning and building codes; for example, a sunspace greenhouse might be appropriate even if it infringes on existing set-back codes. Local government should have its public buildings meet energy conservation standards and consider energy implications of future buildings.

In transportation there was continued strong support for Appleton's transit system. Local government should use vehicles that are as energy efficient as possible. Bicycle use should be promoted through safe and convenient routes and conditions.

Solid waste disposal should be periodically evaluated and recycling promoted whenever feasible. There was support for city pick-up of newspapers if it would be energy efficient. Recycling should be seen as a positive action by the city and promoted as such.

The city (or county, since members believe that both units of local government have a role in energy conservation) should consider providing technical assistance and information to citizens, possibly via an energy information center or neighborhood meetings. Local government could employ newsletters or public library displays in their ongoing energy education role, realizing that citizens progress at different rates in understanding and acting on energy issues. Members generally favor efforts to reduce energy use in the future rather than subsidies for current energy use; for example, they favor insulation efforts over direct fuel assistance.

There was strong support for energy information being available to potential purchasers of buildings at the time of sale, including utility bills and the results of energy audits. Members do not want to require buildings to conform to a specific standard of

energy use as a condition of sale, believing that the economic realities of energy costs will effectively encourage energy conservation without the need for new regulations.

Members support solar access legislation at both the state and local level with clear distinctions made between existing structures in established neighborhoods and proposed development in new areas. Existing areas pose special problems since individual property rights could collide. There was strong agreement that no building or vegetation should be required to be removed in order for solar equipment to be made usable. There was general agreement that if the solar equipment were installed first, it was highly desirable to protect it from subsequent building and planting, but members favored a flexible approach, including private agreements and easements between individuals, rather than very restrictive government regulations. Orderly procedures to protect individual property rights must accompany solar use legislation.

Areas of new construction should have solar access provided for by way of street and building siting, selection and placement of street trees, and protection of a three-dimensional space in which the house is to be located (sometimes called a solar envelope). In general, there was stronger support for solar access protection in new areas.

SUPPORT POSITIONS:

Local government's role in energy conservation:

1. Review and revise local codes, policies, and ordinances to encourage energy conservation.
2. Meet energy standards of its own buildings.
3. Consider energy implications of its actions.
4. Support transportation measures:
 - a. Transit system.
 - b. Energy-efficient vehicles for government use.
 - c. Bicycle use through safe and convenient routes and conditions.
5. Support solid waste disposal:
 - a. Recycle whenever possible.
 - b. Promote recycling in a positive way.

6. Public education on energy:
 - a. Provide technical assistance.
 - b. Provide energy information.
7. Make information on energy available at time of sale of buildings.

Solar access:

1. Legislation supported at state and local level.
2. Existing areas need more flexible standards:
 - a. No building or vegetation should be required to be removed in order for solar equipment to be made usable.
 - b. General support to protect solar equipment from subsequent building or vegetation.
3. New development should have stricter solar access standards:
 - a. Street and building siting.
 - b. Selection and planting of street trees.
 - c. Solar access guaranteed for the building itself.

March 16, 1981
Cynthia Johnson and
Sue Kinde

ENERGY SUPPORT POSITIONS

1980-81
Human
Resources

The following support position will be presented at the ANNUAL MEETING for the membership approval:

Local government's role in energy conservation:

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3. Consider energy implications of its actions.
4. Support transportation measures:
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 - b. Energy-efficient vehicles for government use.
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LOCAL PROGRAM

The following local study items have been proposed for the 1981-1982 Appleton LWV program. These must be voted on by the membership at the ANNUAL MEETING on April 28. Consider these items and be prepared to discuss our plans for study items next year.

RECOMMENDED PROGRAM ITEMS

Low Income Housing in Outagamie County

SCOPE: This study would examine housing patterns, needs and ordinances both on the city and county level. The study would explore how the Housing Authority works and the planning of new low income housing.

The Board further suggests that "mini-studies" be developed on the Family Development Curriculum proposals and on how and why candidates run for office. The first of these two "mini-studies" would be either informational or consensus oriented depending on the progress of the citizen study committee currently working on the curriculum. The candidate study could take the form of a survey and might be developed into a workshop for candidates.

NON-RECOMMENDED PROGRAM ITEMS

1. Solid and hazardous wastes on the local level. No
2. The organization and planning of the Appleton Park and Recreation Department. *
3. County Booklet.