



Dakota Resource Council Gubernatorial Questions: Energy Efficiency

1. In 2011, North Dakota was ranked last in Energy Efficiency by ACEEE (American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy) state energy efficiency scorecard. As Governor, do you have a plan to improve North Dakota's energy efficiency score?
 - a. The American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy determines its state rankings through a variety of factors, many of which are based on policy mandates requiring energy efficiency. Should this study actually look at the energy efficiency practices of citizens and businesses, and not put as much emphasis on whether or not energy efficiency activities are mandated by law, North Dakota would rank much differently. Because of the conservative nature of North Dakotans, state government has not needed to mandate energy efficiency behaviors as they are an innate part of our public culture. Citizens are already seeking ways to save energy and reduce costs, such as: green building practices, energy efficient lighting, energy efficient appliance purchases, etc. Rather than mandate behaviors, the State of North Dakota will continue to educate, persuade and incentivize to promote energy efficiency.
2. North Dakota has very cheap electricity, yet on a per household basis North Dakotans still spend more on their energy bills when compared to regions and states with close to identical climates such as Eastern Montana, South Dakota, and Minnesota according to data collected by the Energy Information Administration (EIA). As Governor do you have any plans to improve energy efficiency in North Dakota to lower per household energy bills in North Dakota?
 - a. Energy efficiency continues to be a high priority for North Dakota and there are a variety of activities that continue to help consumers lower their energy costs.
 - Energy Conservation efforts have helped weatherize almost 3,500 homes for low-income individuals across North Dakota.
 - North Dakotans received 3,800 rebates (at \$150 each) for ENERGY STAR refrigerators, and will save approximately 2 million kilowatt hours annually.
 - In 2010, ND Switch launched a statewide effort, including energy efficient education for our youth, asking North Dakotans to make small energy use changes that collectively create a big impact. A variety of resources is available at www.ndswitch.com.
 - Over 11,000 energy efficiency and renewable energy rebates were given out to North Dakota residents and businesses resulting in \$3.4 million in energy cost savings.
 - Over 1,130 ground source heat pump systems have been installed in both residential and commercial buildings in North Dakota.



- The Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Department and NDSU Extension Service provided education and technical assistance on energy efficiency and conservation through programs such as Home Energy 101, home builders educational seminars, 4-H leader training on the importance of home energy, and energy savings opportunities related to grain drying.

Our efforts will continue to improve energy efficiency through these and other effective initiatives.

3. North Dakota has experienced a boom in construction in the past few years due to the oil boom and new industries moving to the state. If elected governor do you have a plan to make new buildings more energy efficient?
 - a. The state building code already encompasses the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code and the International Residential Code energy efficiency requirements.
4. North Dakota is beginning to build more efficiently in both the public and private sectors, one great example is Minot State University going Geothermal, as well as the St. Alexius Education and Technology building in Bismarck. As Governor what is your plan to encourage others to follow the lead of energy efficient builders?
 - a. The national trend is for building materials and practices to be greener and more energy efficient and the state continues to encourage these practices in North Dakota. The state building code already encompasses the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code and the International Residential Code energy efficiency requirements. As Governor I will continue to applaud the progress and efforts so many have made in their building projects.
5. The State of North Dakota State Capitol grounds have approximately 800,000 square feet of commercial space. Building retrofits, smart building design, improving insulation, and the addition of high efficiency lighting are all ways that could reduce the energy costs at the Capitol. As Governor will you begin an initiative to improve the energy efficiency of the Capitol grounds as well as other North Dakota government buildings?
 - a. Energy efficiency continues to be a high priority in public buildings around the state. Over \$900,000 annually will be saved from the implementation of energy savings measures in 19 North Dakota state facilities such as the State Capitol, North Dakota State School of Science and University of North Dakota. The North Dakota Department of Commerce, Bank of North Dakota and Bismarck Job Service offices all are ENERGY STAR ranked facilities. In addition, approximately 164 local government buildings across the state have been retrofitted through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block



Grant, annually saving over \$1.1 million. The Division of Facilities Management is under a continuing mandate to find energy efficiencies on the Capitol grounds.