



Gubernatorial Questions: Energy Efficiency

1. In 2011, North Dakota was ranked last in Energy Efficiency by the 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? (circle yes / no)

Yes, as we all know we are tested with long, cold winters here in North Dakota. These winters wreak havoc on our electric bills and reduce our energy efficiency, but they don't have to. As governor of North Dakota I would support important federal programs to increase energy efficiency like weatherization assistance programs that have their funds distributed through the state. I would also offer strong support for state energy programs and build upon incentives for North Dakotans who are willing to invest in an energy efficient appliance. I think the biggest component to increasing our state's energy efficiency is educating the public on ways they can become more energy efficient in their daily lives and to inform them that an investment in energy efficient windows or appliances is one that will pay off in the long run. I also believe that it is the right time in our state's history to begin to use a percentage of the Resources Trust Fund for energy conservation programs.

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? (circle yes / no)

Yes, and again I think the answer goes back to educating the public on the importance of being more energy efficient and incentivizing ways to increase the energy efficiency of our homes. As a state, we are in a powerful financial position. We currently have the financial ability to encourage North Dakotans to invest in more energy efficient mechanisms that will benefit the entire state in the long run. We have the ability to offer a tax credit to folks who make the one time investment in buying more energy efficient windows or appliances, decreasing our energy burden. This is a tangible way to make the surplus work for everyone in the state while leaving our future brighter in the long run.

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 plan to make new buildings more energy efficient? (circle yes / no)

Yes, we are gifted with a unique situation in North Dakota that the rest of the country isn't seeing, a construction boom. With this boom comes the rapid rise of many new buildings and homes and while we're happy for the development, we must take this time to invest in our future by building quality, energy



efficient buildings. As a state, we can offer financial incentives to contractors to make the investment in energy efficient features in buildings and homes. Doing this would not only be better for reducing the strain on our natural resources but also reducing the burden of high utility bills for the future occupant of the building.

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?

We see more and more new construction projects focusing on energy efficiency. Another good example in addition to Minot State and St. Alexius' is the new Gorecki Alumni Center at the University of North Dakota. These buildings are a shining example what can be done with smart, targeted investments in energy efficiency from state and federal funds. As governor, I would invest state dollars wisely in projects that place a strong emphasis on energy efficient components.

5. The State of North Dakota State Capitol grounds has 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? Explain.

Yes, as state we must put energy efficiency at the top of our list. A good place to start is in Bismarck at our state's capitol. We are in the position as a state where we are able to make the investments that will end up saving the tax payer money in the long run and we owe it to the folks here in North Dakota to make this investment on their behalf while we have the financial opportunity to do so.