

NC SAVE\$ ENERGY: House Bill 1050

Bringing REAL Energy Efficiency to North Carolina!

What is NC SAVE\$ ENERGY? NC SAVE\$ ENERGY is a proposal by consumer, social justice, senior and environmental groups to create an independent (non-utility) energy efficiency program to make the economic and environmental benefits of energy efficiency and conservation available statewide. We have just introduced our proposal into the NC House, our bill number is **H1050**. The bill's lead sponsors are: Rep. Dan Blue, Rep. Joe Tolson, Rep. Rick Glazier, and Rep. Pricey Harrison. We are working hard to get this passed through the state legislature this year. Visit www.ncsavesenergy.org to learn more about our program and find out how you can be a part of our legislative campaign!

Who would NC SAVE\$ ENERGY help? All North Carolinians, with a commitment to spread the savings, jobs and environmental benefits as widely as possible, especially to low income consumers, through diversified, cost-effective programs.

How would NC SAVE\$ ENERGY work? The program would be funded initially by a small consumption fee on utility bills which could be supplemented from other sources, and governed by a non-profit or an existing "public benefit" organization. Installations and services would be carried out by non-profit and for-profit contractors. Programs could include weatherizing homes, appliance upgrades, efficiency technology like timers for lights and a/c and other cost-effective activities. Six states have implemented such programs, lowering energy costs for millions of customers, creating thousands of jobs, and reducing greenhouse gasses by millions of tons a year. See www.cwfnc.org for further information.

Why not just let the electric utilities run their own efficiency programs? The mission of the utilities is to generate and distribute power for a profit. Expecting utilities to manage energy efficiency involves an inherent conflict of interest, rather like paying Krispy Kreme to design your diet plan. Most of the economic benefits of utility efficiency programs go to utility shareholders instead of customers. Programs like "Save-a-Watt" charge too much and accomplish too little. An independently administered program would have a mission to carry out cost-effective efficiency activities in the public interest.

Who supports NC SAVE\$ ENERGY? AARP-NC, Appalachian Voices, Appalachian Voices Business League, Black-Brown-Green Alliance of Durham, Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, Canary Coalition, Carolinas Clean Air Coalition, Carteret County Crossroads, Clean Water for NC, Conservation Council of North Carolina, Efficiency 1st, Grassroots Energy Alliance, Green Opportunities, Green Sanctuary Committee of the UU Church of Greensboro, Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance, Just Economics, Legal Aid of NC, NAACP (North Carolina chapter), NC ACORN, NC Association of Community Development Corporations, NC Interfaith Power and Light, program of NC Council of Churches, NC Fair Share, NC Housing Coalition, NC Justice Center, NC PIRG, NC State AFL-CIO, NC WARN, North Carolina Green Party, Nuclear Information and Resource Service-Southeast, Southern Energy Network, Sundance Power Systems, UNC Asheville Student Environmental Center, WNC Alliance, WNC Energy LLC, WNC Physicians for Social Responsibility, Write for Change

How can my organization help create a statewide efficiency program?

Tell other organizations, or contact our NC SAVE\$ ENERGY Campaign Coordinator, Jennie Renner-Yeomans, at 919-416-5077 or jennie@ncsavesenergy.org