

INFORMATION FOR ENERGY STUDY—PART II

This article is the second of four which will appear in the January, February, March and April Voters that will provide League members with information needed for consensus on the League of Women Voters of Delaware's Energy Study. The April Voter will contain questions, approved by the State Board in March, which will help us arrive at consensus at the New Castle County (NCC) Unit meeting in April. We suggest that all members save this Voter material for use at the April consensus meeting in New Castle County and at subsequent unit meeting in Kent and Sussex Counties.

DELAWARE BUILDING CODE STATUS

Until the second quarter of 2009, Delaware's building codes lagged significantly behind U.S. national norms. Momentum was underway to move Delaware to adopt the most recent revision of building codes - the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (2009 IECC). The requirement that states meet the latest available standards to qualify for their full share of Federal Stimulus dollars provided the push to get Senate Bill 59 with Senate Amendment 3 passed in June 2009. As a result, the state's building codes will be updated to the most recent code improvements as of 7/1/10. Thereafter, the codes will be updated by the Delaware Energy Office (DEO) every 3 years or as new codes are issued. Action is no longer needed by the Legislature to update codes.

The Delaware Energy Office (DEO) is also charged with publishing procedures for certification of compliance with the latest codes, and for developing training programs for builders, code officials, architects, engineers and other interested parties. The bill further decreed that DEO in consultation with the Green Building Council of Home Builders Association of Delaware, will establish programs to promote the construction of zero net energy homes. A zero net energy home combines state-of-the-art energy efficient construction techniques and equipment with renewable energy systems to enable it to produce and return as much energy to the grid as it uses on an annual basis.

DEO has contracted with the Building Code Assistance Project (BCAP) to design and provide building code training in Delaware. Dates will be publicized soon for workshops to be held in each county in Spring 2010. DEO does not have enforcement authority; local jurisdictions (county and municipal building code inspectors) are charged with monitoring and enforcement of building codes in their areas.

What role should the League play with respect to the implementation of energy efficiency building codes promulgated by DEO under SB 59?

ECONOMIC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

The following recommendations were made by the Energy Economic Development Workshop and then supported by the Governor's Energy Advisory Council in the Delaware Energy Plan 2009-14.

1. The State should provide a comprehensive clean energy business development initiative. A position should be established in the Governor's Office directing the State toward the use of renewable energy, conservation and energy efficiency. This position will coordinate both Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) and Delaware Economic Development Office's (DEDO) efforts in accomplishing this initiative.

Governor Markell has asked the Secretary of DNREC, Collin O'Mara, to direct the above energy efforts. He will be working with the Alan Levin, Director of DEDO.

2. The State should develop and implement a comprehensive energy workforce training strategy to meet the above initiative including vocational/technical schools, technology and community colleges and universities.
3. The State, along with Delaware industries/businesses and universities which have **POTENTIAL ENERGY GROWTH FOR THE FUTURE OF THE STATE** will:
 1. Develop a favorable climate for a primary wind industry and ancillary support businesses.
 2. Develop a favorable climate for a solar industry
 3. Develop a favorable climate for an energy storage industry
 4. Develop a favorable climate for a weatherization industry
 5. Develop a favorable climate for conversion of the combustion engine to electric power
 6. Facilitate vehicle-to-grid (V2G) development for fleet use such as utility trucks (power and telecommunication), postal trucks, etc.
 7. Have the research capacity to explore new developments in the renewable energy sector.
 8. Develop a favorable climate for a zero waste industry.

QUESTION

1. Do you believe a position should be established in the Governor's office to promote a clean energy business development initiative?
2. What is your response to the above strategies?
3. What do you see as the role of the League?
Role of League – Lobby for above. Continue monitoring and playing a watchdog role. Develop more contacts with the leadership/task members with the legislators and councils and the SEU. Present educational programs for the above.

QUESTION FOR EDUCATION

- ✚ Should Delaware adopt a comprehensive plan for education of the public from kindergarten to senior citizens so that they have the knowledge and skills necessary to modify their personal behavior, to support the transition to a sustainable economy and to find employment in it?
 1. Pros and Cons