

March 26, 2009

My name is David Jackson and I am speaking on the 2009 Integrated Resource Plan. I am here as energy Chair representing the Connecticut Sierra Club with a membership of over 9,500. And am a resident of West Hartford.

Members of the Connecticut Energy Advisory Board, thank you for the opportunity to address this important issue. Sierra Club strongly supports the requirement in Public Act 07-242 to implement all cost-effective energy efficiency measures and we ask you to include specific annual funding levels for energy efficiency in the Integrated Resource Plan.

The Executive Summary on page ES2 states “Connecticut has very limited in-state renewable resource potential other than fuel cells....New transmission could enable the development and integration of out-of state resources.”

Clean Water Action has already mentioned that direct solar thermal and solar electricity are viable in-state renewable energy resources in their comments on 2009 Integrated Resource Plan. The Connecticut Sierra Club reminds the CEAB that the indirect-solar-energy- geothermal/ground-source heat pump (GHP) is a potential renewable energy resource.

GHP units extract energy from the ground at depths of a meter or more—where the temperature stays essentially constant year round at what is the mean temperature in Connecticut. By avoiding low wintertime air temperatures GHPs maintain an acceptable coefficient of performance of typically 3 to 4. In addition to providing heat in the winter GHPs can also be reversed to provide summer cooling

Because GHP systems have relatively few moving parts, and because those parts are sheltered inside a building, they are durable and highly reliable. The underground piping often carries warranties of 25-50 years and the heat pumps often last 20 years or more,

Because they have no outside condensing units like air conditioners, there is no concern about outside noise. In addition, a two-speed GHP system is so quiet inside a house that users do not know it is operating.

GHP systems can provide Connecticut a highly reliable renewable energy resource all year long.

Respectively submitted,



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