

Topic: Energy, Conservation/efficiency, Renewable, Distributed Power, Who Wins?

Convener: Bill Blessing

Room: E

Discussion Summary:

- Energy:
 - Conservation/Efficiency
 - Renewable
 - Distributed Power
 - Who wins?
- Why change?
 - Economics
 - Public concern
 - Government mandates, rebates, tax credits
 - Lower initial cost (volume)
 - Energy independence
 - Moral mandate
- Goal statements: Do we need to talk about grid versus off grid. Because we have such cheap and dirty energy, do we need to talk more about conservation, minimize demand, max renewable, diversity of sources, gaps. Also look at energy audits.
- **What is green?** Is there an agreed upon definition? What is sustainable?
- “Becoming America’s Green Region” (the following points are sequential) – Enabling a green culture

Why does someone “go green.” What is the incentive? Is it just economic? What are the other incentives?

1. Maximize Efficiency/Conversation (fastest economic payback)
 - Public education – spaceship earth idea, collective solutions
 - Education: people knowing what they have and what the benefits are – including economic – of changing. Can’t replace profit as motivation. Need triple bottom line approach – includes social, environmental considerations.
 - Look at ALL costs – economic, social, environmental
 - Carbon footprints
 - Building Audits
 - Sharing success stories (EEBN)
 - How can we do sustainability if we have Haves and Have-nots?
 - Winterizing homes is an example of audits.
 - Commercial buildings – design, build and operate efficiently
 - Focus on low income homes
 - Correctly incentivize Utilities
 - What is total cost of petroleum use
 - Nuclear issue
2. Maximize Renewables
 - Grid
 - Self-Provided
 - Local Carbon Offsets
 - Sustainability
 - Promote Kansas net metering and Renewable Portfolio Standard, audit reimbursement
 - Regional Carbon Offset Market
3. Enabling Systems
 - Off-peak storage
 - Carbon sequestration
 - Smart transmission grid
 - R&D
 - Policy
 - Carbon Cap and Trade Issue
 - Zoning restrictions on solar panels, etc. need to be lifted. Including sun easements. Missouri and Kansas Building codes needed that mandate efficiency.

4. Solve for the Gap – what will you need down the road?
Nuclear politics (life-cycle economics)

Light pollution as energy waste. Visible form of energy waste. Moving from conscious decision to save to unconscious decision to save. Change or conservation as a moral mandate.

Meeting time:

Session 1: 9:30 a.m.

Recorder:

John Staples