

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Bio-mass resources

Our goal is to create a master plan that will lead to utilization of bio-mass resources within the state. At present, the State Energy Office is working with the City of Worcester, Dynitech and Commonwealth Gas in applying for a federal grant to finance the extraction of methane gas from municipal land fill.

It is entirely possible that up to 1 million cubic ft. of usable methane gas per day can be obtained from such a development.

Belcher, New England has received an \$850,000 feasibility grant from DOE to build a 25 million gallon ethanol refinery..

We are helping Fibrex in the western part of the state to apply for a cooperative agreement loan guarantee for a total of \$7½ million to build a 5.25 million gallon ethanol plant.

We are helping Evergreen Energy get a \$1½ million feasibility study for an 82 million gallon a year methanol plant sited in northern Massachusetts.

Technical Programs

- COAL-OIL MIXTURE

A new program will be starting this Fall as Massachusetts continues to work diligently to utilize increasing quantities of domestic coal, whenever possible, to offset our excessive use of imported oil. We will be working with DOE to demonstrate the successful combustion of coal oil mixture as an injection fuel in existing industrial boilers to confirm the feasibility of burning such as mixtures as "alternate fuels" under the Powerplant and Industrial Fuel Use Act.

- COAL CONVERSION

We continue to work jointly with the utilities, DOE, EPA and DEQE toward overcoming existing obstacles to the conversion back to coal of some of our larger electric generation stations. We consider the clear burning of coal on a voluntary conversion basis at stations such as Mt. Tom, Salem Harbor and West Springfield to be of major importance in reducing our dependence on foreign oil. We are working to do this in an environmentally and economically feasible manner.

- PEAT RESOURCE DEFINITION

We hope this fall to be joining a DOE peat resource definition program, which involves several states, to determine the amount and location of fuel-grade peat that may be harvested and utilized in an environmentally and acceptable manner in Massachusetts.

- ENERGY ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVES

We will be working with DEGE via a Memorandum of Understanding to develop Interim Sulfur in fuel Limitations for fossil fuel utilization facilities. The purpose of this new program is to provide an additional incentive for the reduction of in-the-use petroleum products by fossil fuel utilization facilities, either through the use of energy conservation measures or the conversion to alternate fuels in a manner which is consistent with the protection of the public health and environmental standards.

RENEWABLE RESOURCES

Multi Family Passive Solar

A unique combination of Federal, State, and Local resources and initiative is producing energy efficient/passive solar elderly housing in Massachusetts. The program, developed at and managed by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy Resources, (EOER) is using \$2.5 million of state energy bonding authority to finance incremental costs of energy conservation and passive solar features in state financed local housing projects. The design and technical assistance, incremental cost estimating, and public outreach portions of the program have been made possible under a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy (through NESEC) as part of the Solar Cities Program.

The program includes both new projects and retrofits, with buildings types ranging from mid-rise, high density urban structures to two-story suburban townhouses. Seventeen projects, including over 400 passive solar units, are in working drawings or out to bid and more are in concept development. It is anticipated that present funding will ultimately permit construction of as many as 800 passive solar heated apartments. On the average, these projects will use only 25% of the energy required to heat a similar building of conventional design.

Residential Solar

The Residential Solar Section of the Renewable Resource Division will continue in its role of assisting the commercialization of solar energy in Massachusetts. This means, primarily, providing reliable information to consumers on the various solar options and considerations, and attempting to remove the institutional barriers to the development of the solar industry.

In addition, the division, as a whole, will be involved with putting together a new legislative package. Unfortunately, the amendment to the state solar tax credit to include passive systems did not make it through the House before the summer recess. This will be part of the new legislative package for next year.

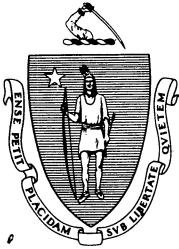
Hydro-Wind

In the area of Hydropower, the main focus is on providing technical assistance to dam owners and potential developers. A guidebook is being prepared and plans are underway for a series of workshops for developers covering the topics of feasibility assessments, licensing, financing and power marketing. In addition, a comprehensive consumer information packet is being prepared for residential wind users.

Wood

Wood still beats them all. Wood is replacing more useful energy than all renewables put together. Our goal is to replace 10 million gallons of oil. Last year 4 to 4½ million were replaced.

The State Energy Department is working with industries for wood use as an industrial fuel. In Northfield, Mt. Herman School is in the process of wood conversion now and expects to save 400,000 gallons of oil when it goes into operation next year. Cooley Dickinson Hospital in Northampton expects to convert to wood and hopes to save about ½ million gallons. Several greenhouse operators are converting to wood with combined oil savings of 30 to 40 thousand gallons a year.



EDWARD J. KING
Governor

JOSEPH S. FITZPATRICK
Secretary

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Executive Office of Energy Resources

CAMBRIDGE, MASS 73 Tremont Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02108

January 7, 1981

(617) 727-4732

Mr. Joseph Connarton
Office of the City Clerk
Cambridge, Mass. 02139

Dear Mr. Connarton:

Due to your past letter of concern regarding licensing of additional nuclear plants, the Governor has requested that I respond on this important issue and bring you up to date on alternative energy sources we are pursuing.

Be assured that the Cabinet Task Force, their respective staffs, and the independent expert advisory panel are reviewing the NRC investigation of Three Mile Island as well as Massachusetts' own emergency response plans. The Commonwealth will not be involved in the licensing of new nuclear facilities until we are certain that every measure to protect the public health and safety which would have precluded the incident in Pennsylvania is in place in Massachusetts.

This office is presently fully involved in alternative energy programs such as solar, hydro, cogeneration, gasohol and wood burning, and technical programs to encourage environmentally safe coal conversion and the use of coal/oil mixtures.

Enclosed for your information are brief descriptions of some of these programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Margaret McLaughlin".

Margaret McLaughlin
Coresponse Coordinator

MM:mh

Encls.

Comm. from Margaret McLaughlin, Correspondence
Coordinator, Executive Office of Energy Re-
sources, relative to alternative energy
sources.

In City Council

January 12, 1981

*Referred to the
Energy Commission
Copy sent to the Energy
Commission 1/13/81 (22)*