

## **Energy Efficiency Study Committee**

January 2008

### **III. Recommendations**

Energy Efficiency Study Committee members approved a motion supporting the following recommendations at the conclusion of the November 13, 2007, meeting in recognition of the essential impact of energy efficiency improvements in achieving energy independence, job stimulation and economic growth, and environmental improvement for the benefit of future generations:

1. Set an energy efficiency goal of 1.5 percent per capita per year. The current energy efficiency efforts are focused on providing particular cost-effective programs. The General Assembly needs to add a focus on the overall results to improve performance and accountability. The Committee recommends setting a statewide energy efficiency goal of 1.5 percent per capita per year which, if achieved, would save Iowans \$9 billion over the next 10 years. In the utility sector, the energy efficiency goal should apply to all utilities. The General Assembly should give utilities flexibility in meeting the goal, provide incentives for achieving the goal, and create remedies if the goal is not met such as proportional financing of a third-party administrator to achieve the goal. Impose a three-year phase-in period.
2. Provide tax incentives for the construction and rehabilitation of green buildings.
3. Provide basic energy efficiency services statewide so they are available for all Iowa families and businesses.
4. Improve compliance with state building energy code. Buildings are a major consumer of energy. The most cost-effective time to improve building energy efficiency is at construction. The General Assembly should establish the state building energy code as the minimum standard statewide, and support education, compliance, and enforcement of the state building energy code.
5. Encourage green building construction and renovation. The General Assembly should require and help finance green building construction for public buildings, and provide incentives for green building construction in the private sector.
6. Promote low-income energy efficiency efforts. Energy efficiency is an essential part of meeting low-income energy needs. The General Assembly should fully fund the assessment and resolution program for the community action agencies to promote energy efficiency.
7. Transportation efficiency improvements. The Committee did not have time to address transportation efficiency. The General Assembly should ask the Office of Energy Independence to work with the Department of Transportation, other state agencies, and the transportation industry to make recommendations for improving transportation efficiency including raising the fuel economy of Iowa's vehicle fleet.

- 8.** Promote cogeneration of electricity to improve energy efficiency in electrical production. The Committee did not have time to address production efficiency. The General-Assembly should ask the Office of Energy Independence to work with the Iowa Utilities Board, other state agencies, and the energy industry to make recommendations for improving production efficiency such as cogeneration of electricity.
- 9.** Promote better workforce training to improve energy efficiency. Mr. Don Otto and other witnesses explained the importance of quality workmanship in improving energy efficiency, but the Committee did not have time to address these workforce issues. The General Assembly should ask Iowa's universities, private colleges, community colleges, the building trades, and the building industry for recommendations to improve the growing energy efficiency workforce.
- 10.** Encourage the Iowa Power Fund Board to invest in energy efficiency.
- 11.** Promote integrated planning and programming with energy efficiency (Minnesota model) — including rural electric cooperatives and municipal utilities.
- 12.** Establish third-party administration pilot project.
- 13.** Facilitate an energy efficiency summit — promote statewide sharing of programs and cooperation.
- 14.** Establish an advisory council on energy efficiency for Office of Energy Independence.
- 15.** Require an economic impact assessment of energy efficiency programs.
- 16.** Provide better consumer education.
- 17.** Continue to study load management.
- 18.** Facilitate easier implementation of energy efficiency programs for customers, including a list of available contractors.