

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

November 17, 2011

RE: Comments on the proposed revisions to the 2007 Idaho Energy Plan

Members of the Interim Energy, Environment and Technology Committee:

Please accept these comments on the proposed revisions to the 2007 Idaho Energy Plan, submitted on behalf of the more than 2,300 Sierra Club members in Idaho. The Sierra Club's first priority is mitigating the effects of global climate change. We note that, with its Energy Plan, the state of Idaho has an opportunity to implement policies here that will help position Idaho to both deal with the environmental challenge of climate change and to simultaneously allow us to grow our green economy.

The 2007 Legislature overwhelmingly approved the state Energy Plan that called for the development of incentives in the form of tax credits and other measures that spur investments in renewable energy, conservation, and energy-efficient technologies. These incentives are key to helping Idahoans reduce their energy use and keep their energy costs low. They need to remain in the 2012 Plan.

Since energy conservation and efficiencies are the most cost-effective ways to reduce the need for other, more expensive, sources of energy, they should be given the highest priority in the 2012 Plan. To paraphrase Ben Franklin, a kilowatt saved is a kilowatt generated. An ancillary advantage of energy efficiency is that it requires considerable on-site work (think storm windows and insulation); these are local jobs that can't be outsourced.

Consistent with supporting energy efficiency, we urge that the Plan recommend that Idaho adopt the most recent international building codes.

The next priority energy source for Idaho should be to develop renewable energy resources including wind, solar, and geothermal; the opportunities are abundant and can be quickly developed.

We see no place for developing nuclear power in Idaho. It is environmentally unacceptable as well as requiring expenditures that are well beyond that of other new energy development or what taxpayers can be asked to subsidize.

In summary, we urge you to take the steps necessary to ensure that energy efficiency and conservation, the cheapest and most logical resource of choice for utilities, remains the "highest priority" in the 2012 Idaho Energy Plan, followed by sustainable, responsibly sited renewable energy.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on such a valuable Plan.

Respectfully submitted.

Edwina Allen, Chair
Idaho Chapter
Sierra Club
P.O. Box 552
Boise, Idaho 83701
208 384-1023
edwinaallen@cableone.net