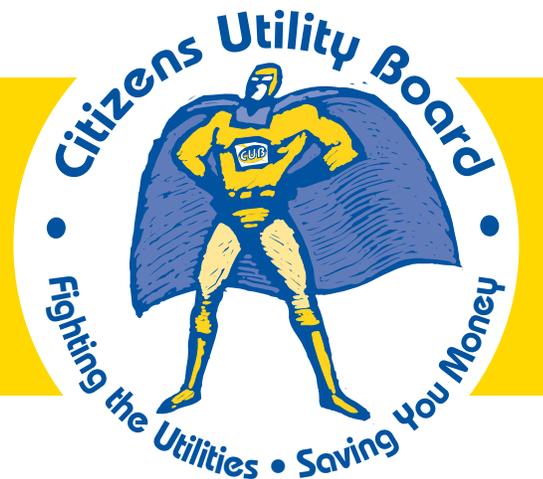


CUB Reporter

Citizens Utility Board Newsletter • FALL 2008



Global Warming Task Force Releases Final Report

Governor Jim Doyle's Task Force on Global Warming released its final report addressing global warming pollution in late July. CUB was a member of the task force, along with 28 representatives of business organizations, utilities, tribes, unions, and environmental organizations.

The task force recommended that Wisconsin reduce its emissions of global warming pollutants back to 2005 levels by 2014, and to 1990 levels by 2022. The task force also established a long term goal of a 75 percent reduction from 2005 levels by 2050.

To reach these pollution reduction goals, the task force recommended larger investments in energy efficiency, the most cost-effective way to reduce energy use and related pollution. By making our homes and businesses more energy efficient, con-

sumers can reduce their monthly energy bills, reduce their use of energy, and reduce their "carbon footprint," or the amount of global warming pollution caused by their use of energy.

Specifically, the task force recommended an increase in funding in Focus on Energy, a statewide program that offers energy efficiency services and cash-back rewards for households and businesses that install energy efficient equipment, appliances, and insulation (for more information about Focus on Energy, call 1-800-762-7077, or visit www.focusonenergy.com).

The task force also recommended that Wisconsin further develop its renewable energy resources by installing more wind machines, solar electric systems, solar hot water systems, and bioenergy systems that convert agricultural products and wastes into electricity or gas and liquid fuels. With regards to electricity, the task force recommended that Wisconsin generate 20 percent of its electricity from renewable sources by 2020, and 25 percent by 2025.

Although investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy will cost money, Wisconsin residents and businesses will see benefits through lower monthly bills, cleaner air, and a stronger economy, since spending on energy efficiency and renewable energy keeps dollars in the local economy instead of being shipped to other states and nations.

CUB staff participated on the task force, which was convened by Governor Doyle in April 2007. CUB supported the final report of the task force and the recommendations therein. The final report of the task force can be downloaded from <http://dnr.wi.gov/environmentprotect/gtfgw/>.

Join CUB's Sustainer Program

This program offers CUB members the opportunity to pledge a monthly or quarterly donation to CUB. There are four methods donors can choose: EFT (electronic funds transfer), a recurring donation through our website www.wiscub.org, in response to notices mailed from our office, or by credit card. Watch for Sustainer notices in CUB mailings or contact Rich in the CUB office at 608-251-3322 ext. 10 or email Rich at staff@wiscub.org.

New to the CUB Sustainer Program:

Mary Frances Bullamore
Amy Kirkland
Bonnie Strauss

Thank you to all members of CUB's Sustainer Program!

**CUB
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From the Executive Director

If you're like most Wisconsin households, your utility bill is taking a bigger bite out of your monthly budget.

Wisconsin utility rates started rising dramatically in 1997. When adjusted for inflation, Wisconsin electricity rates have increased by 50 percent since 1997, and rates for natural gas have nearly doubled.

Meanwhile, the spending power of a Wisconsin household has remained stagnant when adjusted for inflation.

Since rates for electricity and natural gas have risen much more quickly than incomes or inflation, energy bills today consume a much larger portion of your household's monthly budget. In addition, there are rising costs for food, gasoline, health care and education.

CUB is working on two proven strategies that help reduce monthly energy bills: energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Due in part to CUB's advocacy, Governor Doyle's Task Force on Global Warming (of which CUB was a member) recently recommended that Wisconsin should greatly increase investments in Focus on Energy, Wisconsin's state-wide energy efficiency and renewable energy program.

In addition the task force recom-



mended that Wisconsin produce 25 percent of its electricity from renewable resources by 2025.

Energy efficiency and renewable energy will help Wisconsin households and businesses reduce their monthly energy bills, reduce pollution, and strengthen local economies.

During the coming legislative session, CUB will work hard to turn the task force recommendations into reality.

We greatly appreciate the support of our members and foundations, whose contributions and grants support our important work. Your support allowed CUB to participate on the Governor's global warming task force. We're hopeful for continued success in developing Wisconsin's energy efficiency and renewable energy resources.

**CUB – fighting the utilities
fighting for you!**

CUB Update: 2008

Every year, CUB saves Wisconsin ratepayers millions of dollars—more than \$299 million since 2005! Most of these savings come from our work in cases before the Public Service Commission (PSC). CUB also works for you in the state Legislature, promoting good public policies and stopping bad legislation.

Below are some updates on ongoing and recently completed rate cases and legislation that CUB is working on for you.

Cases at the Public Service Commission

Decoupling, Docket 05-UI-114

On June 3, 2008, the PSC opened an investigation into the issue of whether ratepayers would benefit if utilities were able to “decouple” profits from sales of electricity and gas. Decoupling is a controversial issue, because it can increase the certainty that utilities will collect their profits from ratepayers, yet ratepayers may not receive any commensurate benefits. CUB is participating in this docket to make sure ratepayers receive benefits should the Commission allow utilities to decouple their profits from sales of energy.

Energy Efficiency Goals, Docket 05-UI-115

On April 3, 2008, the PSC opened an investigation regarding the budget for the Focus on Energy program, and to establish goals for the amount of energy to be saved through the program. CUB is participating in this docket to make sure Focus on Energy is adequately funded to help Wisconsin households and businesses save

energy, the best strategy for reducing monthly utility bills and reducing global warming pollution.

Fuel Rules, Docket 1-AC-224

In February 2006, the Commission requested comments from CUB, the utilities, and other stakeholders on whether the electric “fuel rules” need to be changed given the volatility in power plant fuel costs such as natural gas. The administrative rules drafted by the Commission have serious problems: they would raise rates for consumers, require many more proceedings at the PSC, and violate existing statutes prohibiting automatic adjustment clauses and retroactive ratemaking. CUB and other groups were successful in preventing these rules from taking effect in 2008, but these issues will come up again in 2009.

Telephone Deregulation, Docket 05-TI-1777

In early 2008, the PSC opened an investigation regarding whether and to what extent regulations for local telephone service should be changed. CUB submitted comments on March 25, asking that the PSC consider policies that would make broadband Internet service more available and more affordable. CUB also suggested that consumer protections for any type of telecommunication service should be strengthened.

The Commission intends to issue a report by the end of 2008 with recommendations on how to change telephone regulations.

We Energies, Addition of Pollution Controls to the Oak Creek

Power Plant, Docket 6630-CE-299

On June 21, 2007, We Energies applied for permission from the PSC to install pollution control devices on the Oak Creek Power Plant. The utility estimated that the pollution control devices would cost \$820 million, which is about the same cost as a new power plant.

CUB and Clean Wisconsin intervened in this case together. Based on our analysis, we determined that We Energies did not provide enough evidence to support placing pollution controls on all four boilers in the Oak Creek plant. Due to this lack of evidence, CUB and Clean Wisconsin urged the PSC to reject We Energies’ application.

The PSC decided the case on June 27, 2008. Unfortunately, the PSC ruled in favor of We Energies, and pollution controls will be added to all four boilers, even though CUB and Clean Wisconsin’s analysis showed that customers would save \$100 million if the two oldest boilers were shut down in 2012 and pollution controls were installed on the newer units.

Wisconsin Power & Light (dba Alliant Energy), Nelson Dewey Power Plant, Docket 6680-CE-170

On February 7, 2007, WPL filed an application for a construction permit for a 300 megawatt coal plant at its Nelson Dewey site on the shore of the Mississippi River near Cassville. The plant and related facilities would cost at least

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CUB Board of Directors Election Results

Citizens Utility Board (CUB) is a state-wide membership organization incorporated under state and federal laws regulating non-profit groups.

The purpose of the organization is to:

1. ensure effective and democratic representation of residential, farm and small business utility customers before regulatory agencies;
2. ensure effective and democratic representation of residential, farm and small business utility customers before the legislature and other public bodies; and
3. provide education on utility service costs and on the benefits and methods of energy conservation for consumers.

Citizens Utility Board

16 N. Carroll St., Suite 530
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A special thank you to all CUB members who cast ballots for the recent CUB Board of Directors election.

We are pleased to announce that Margot King of Plattville was re-elected to another 3-year term on the CUB Board. Andy Olsen of Madison was elected to serve another term; Andy had served on the board during the 1990s. Congratulations to Margot and Andy; CUB will greatly benefit from their experience and guidance through the coming years.

Each summer, several seats on the CUB Board are open for election. If you know an individual who would make a good candidate for the board, and who supports CUB's mission that ratepayers deserve a strong voice to ensure safe, reliable utility service at reasonable rates, please contact CUB Executive Director Charlie Higley at higley@wiscub.org, or mail to:

Charlie Higley
Citizens Utility Board
16 N. Carroll St., Suite 530
Madison, WI 53703

CUB Update: 2008

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\$1.2 billion. CUB and Clean Wisconsin are working together to oppose this power plant, because it would increase Wisconsin's emission of global warming pollution, and would threaten ratepayers with higher rates due to the likelihood that global warming pollution will be regulated in the future. In addition, analyses have shown that less polluting power plants could be built that would save customers hundreds of millions of dollars when compared to WPL's proposed coal plant. The case will be decided by the PSC by the end of 2008.

Wisconsin Power & Light (dba Alliant Energy), Rate Case for 2009-2010 Rates, Docket 6680-UR-116

On February 22, 2008, WPL filed an application to raise its electric and gas rates starting January 2009. WPL is asking to raise electric rates by

\$144 million, or 9% in 2009 and 4% in 2010. Gas charges (excluding the cost of the gas itself) would decline by 1%. WPL stated that the electric rate increase is needed because of rising fuel costs, costs for new transmission projects, costs for a new wind farm, and costs related to the Nelson Dewey power plant (which has not been approved). CUB is intervening in the case to urge the PSC and the utility to reduce rates for residential customers, who have been paying too much when compared to commercial and industrial customers. CUB also wants the utility to offer new rate options so that consumers can reduce their energy use and save money on their energy bills. The PSC will decide this case by December 2008.

Wisconsin Public Service Corp., Rate Case for 2009-2010 Rates, Docket 6690-UR-119

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Friends of CUB Donors (\$100 and up) from January 1, 2008 to August 31, 2008

Grant Abert	James Fiala	Thomas and Kathleen	Mary Smith
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Doris Anderson	Vaughn and Esther Gehrt	Sally Mundt & Carolyn Schloemer	Marguerite Soffa
Vivienne Babcock	Robert Geiser	Donald and Leone	Hedwig Spaight
Kathleen Bernhart	Bob Goeres	Nachreiner	Joan and Ralph Spaulding
William and Ann Beverly	James and Dolores Gonyo	David Nelson	Kurt and Susan Sroka
Cheri Briscoe	Norma Gracey	Fred Newmann & Carolyn Hegeler	Barbara St George
Melinda and Jack Brooks	Robert Greenler	Katharine Odell	Rodney and Karen Stevenson
Alan and Marilyn Cable	Henry Hart	Karen Oechler	Andrew Sullivan
Dave Calkins	Gertrude Hessel	David and Susan Ogden	David Swibold
Michael Chubeck	Phyllis Huffman	Joseph and Mary Ousley	Lawrence and Mary Teofilo
W H H and Carol Cranmer	Margaret Banta Humleker	Thomas and Elaine Pagedas	Local 1343 United Steel Workers Of America
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Lee Cullen	James and Joan Johnston	George Penn	Lloyd Velicer & Sharon Mulak
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	Daniel McAdams	John Seidl & Karen Huske	
	Brent and Deborah McCown		
	Chris and Mary Meixner		
	John and Linda Merrill		

New CUB Members from January 1, 2008 through August 31, 2008

Anne Ahrens	Michael Bergen	Burckel	Debra Christopherson
Douglas Ahsmann	Don Beyer	Wallace Burkee	Maureen Coffey
Jon Altendorf	Michael Blick	Matt Bushner	Connie Colussy
Bobbi Anderson	Tom Blish	Daniel Caballero	Virginia Conley
Patricia Arata	Rev. Harold Boettcher	Dave Calkins	Susan Cook
Calvin Baehr	Virginia Bormann & Gerald Emery	Joan Capelle	Linda Corder
Rebecca Ballway	Dorothy Boyer	Mark Capriolo	Alexandra Corten
Jennifer Barker	Don Buckman	Carolyn Carlson	Carlton Counard
Alvina Bayner	Lenore and Nicholas	Joan Case	Robert Cramer
Jonathan Beers			

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New CUB Members

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Dianne Dagen
Donna Davids
Andrew Deubel
Mary DeVita
Abdul Diaab
Barbara Diettrich
Jane Dietzman
Marjorie Dlenski
Jerome Dombraski
Richard and Lowanna
Dooley
Darrell Dorchner
Judith Earley
Gordon Earll
Christine Eckerman &
Joseph Ripp
Janis Edwards
Frances Ehrlich
Bill Engels
J Engseth
Diane Esser
Edward Fairchild
Beverly Fischer
Nicole Fite
Peggy Flaten
Roberta Forman
Dr Robert Frisch
Amy Fuelleman & Dave
Evans
Nancy Fulkerson Hill
Archie Gandy
Linda Gatford
James Geishert
Tristan Gerra
Danny Gilchrist
Gary Giorgi
Merri Ann Gonzalez
Beryl Gribbon-Fago
S Guenther
Mary Hagle
James Hanin
Constance Hardacre
Ron Harrold
Marcia Hazen
Paul Heinrich & Susan
Pope
Elizabeth Hermann
Darlene Herrington
Mary Hiebl
Kathy Hubing
Betty Humphreys

Iras Humphreys
Richard Huss
John and Judith
Hutchinson
Adrienne Imilkowski
Nancy Jacobsen
John Jaeckle
Joseph Janutka
Linda Jaworski-Pecht
Grace and Robert
Jeffery
Herman John
Joyce Johnson
Christine Johnston
Louanne Jozwiak
Barbara Juelich
James Kasukonis
Wilford Kepler
Deborah Kinder
Margaret Klessig
Joan Klinkner
John Klug
William Kocher
Joseph Kolgat
Janice Konkol
Charles Korger
Matthew Krimpelbein
Ruth and Terry Kringle
Thomas Kubiak
Charles Kubicek
Lynne Kuepper
Marjut Kuklin
Tom Lamb
Tim Lane
K M Larson
W Layman
William Lehmann

David Leist
Larry Lemley
Joseph Leonard
C V Lesniewski
Eric Liljequist
Robert Martens
Tom Martin
Amanda McConnell
Tom McCutcheon
Julie McHale
Marilyn McIntyre
Patricia McKearn &
Richard Smith
Carol Mcky
Hans Meyer
Sven Midelfort
Cynthia Mielke
Christine Mitchell
M Natti
Keith Nelson
Mary Neu
Carol Nickasch
Edward Paulsen
Elaine Pearson
Dianne Pederson
Steven Platt
Pamela Pletsch
Katherine Ponsegrau
Alice Popp
Rita Qureshi
John Race
Jeannette Raddatz
Mariam Reading
Jane Richard
Thomas Rickner
Gail Ritsema
Dorothy Roche

Sue Rogan
B Rogers
Gretchen Roy
Doris Rusch
Thomas Rutkowski
Patricia Sacco
Stephen Salemsen
Laura Schmidli
B Schneider
Janie Schneider
Dayna Schwarz
Julianne Seaberg &
James Harasymiw
Margaret Shannon
Elizabet Shinn
Jack Siefert
Tracy Simpson
Kathleen Slamka
Rick Sommerfeld
Joan and Ralph
Spaulding
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Henry Woodard
James Woods
Karen Zimmer
Marilyn Zirbel

**CUB saves \$1000
for every
\$1 contributed!**

On April 1, 2008, WPS filed an application to raise its electric and gas rates starting January 2009. WPS is asking to raise electric rates by \$107 million, or 8% in 2009. Gas charges (excluding the cost of the gas itself) would increase by 2%. WPS stated that the electric rate increase is needed because of rising fuel costs, costs for new transmission projects, costs for a new wind farm, and costs related to the new Weston 4 power plant.

As a part of this case, CUB has entered into an agreement with WPS to greatly increase investments in energy efficiency programs for customers. WPS has agreed to ramp up its support for Focus on Energy over the next four years from about \$12 million per year to \$36 million per year. WPS will also test new rate designs and load management opportunities for customers through 3-year pilots operating in three communities served by WPS; the communities have not been chosen at this time. WPS has also agreed to knock off \$2 million from rates charged to residential and commercial customers. In exchange, WPS can “decouple” its sales of electricity from the profits it is authorized to collect. The PSC needs to approve this agreement before it can take effect. The PSC will decide the case by December 2008.

Legislative Activities

Stopping Repeal of the Nuclear Moratorium

Throughout 2008, CUB has

been fighting against attempts to repeal Wisconsin’s nuclear power plant law, Wis. Stat. 196.493. This law requires that, before any new nuclear power plant is built in Wisconsin, three criteria must be met:

A federally-licensed nuclear waste dump will be available to dispose of all of the nuclear waste from the reactors in Wisconsin;

A reliable and adequate supply of nuclear fuel is available; and

The cost of building, operating, and decommissioning the nuclear plant and disposing of the nuclear waste is economically advantageous to ratepayers.

Some politicians believe that nuclear power can help Wisconsin meet future energy needs. CUB believes that investing in options such as energy efficiency and renewable energy will allow us to meet our electricity needs without the risks and costs of nuclear power.

No other energy production technology produces plutonium, one of the most lethal substances known and a primary ingredient in nuclear weapons. Spent nuclear fuel is deadly dangerous for hundreds of thousands of years, and its existence increases the risk of nuclear war and terrorism. Building more nuclear power plants in Wisconsin would increase the very real risk of the Wolf River area being selected by the federal government as a disposal site for the nation’s high level radioactive waste.

Nuclear power is expensive: Nuclear power plants *always* cost

more than promised; nuclear power relies on insurance against catastrophe subsidized by taxpayers; since 1943, nuclear power has received more than 95% of the federal research and development money spent on nuclear, solar, and wind power; and the cost of nuclear fuel mining, processing, and disposal is heavily subsidized by taxpayers.

CUB is working hard to make sure that the state law protecting us from the dangers and cost of nuclear power remains on the books.

Governor Doyle’s Task Force on Global Warming

CUB was a member of the task force, which issued policy recommendations in July 2008 on ways Wisconsin can reduce global warming pollution while strengthening its economy.

The recommendations call for making large investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy, which will help reduce monthly utility bills, reduce pollution, and strengthen Wisconsin’s economy.

Midwest Governors Association

CUB is working with the governors of Midwest states to implement regional agreements regarding reducing global warming pollution, which were signed by the governors in November 2007. CUB is helping the Midwest governors develop policies on ways to make homes and businesses more energy efficient.



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Winter Shut Offs

If you face having your utilities shut-off because you owe more money than you can pay, there are some things you can do and places you can turn for help *today*.

If you receive a shut-off notice:

Immediately contact the utility company to arrange a payment plan. **As soon as you call to set up a plan, the disconnection notice is suspended.**

If you cannot reach a payment agreement with the utility, contact the **Public Service Commission's Consumer Affairs Unit** at (800) 225-7729.

If you need help paying your utility bill:

There is financial assistance available for income-eligible households through the **Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP)** at: (866) 432-8947 or online at: www.homeenergyplus.wi.gov.

The **Wisconsin Energy Help Initiative** provides

comprehensive information on all of the state's energy assistance programs at: (800) 522-3014 or online at: www.energyhelp.wi.gov.

If you need help reducing your energy bill:

Wisconsin residents and businesses can contact **Focus on Energy**, Wisconsin's statewide energy efficiency and renewable energy program. *Focus* works with eligible Wisconsin residents and businesses to install cost effective energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Contact **Focus on Energy** at (800) 762-7077 or online at: www.focusonenergy.com for more information on how to save energy, reduce monthly energy bills and reduce energy pollution.

