

Renewable energy plan would mean a cleaner Las Cruces

<https://www.lcsun-news.com/story/opinion/columnists/2018/03/31/renewable-energy-plan-would-mean-cleaner-las-cruces/476164002/>

Sanders Moore and Sen. Jeff Steinborn Published 8:22 p.m. MT March 31, 2018

The future has arrived, and it's time we catch up. With a click on the computer in your pocket, you can pay the bills, read the news, listen to music, even manage the temperature of your home from miles away. Whole books can fly through the airwaves into your handy device. An electric car -- the Chevy Bolt -- was Motor Trend's 2017 car of the year. But when it comes to how we power our homes, businesses and communities, we are stuck in the past.

In spite of the fact that renewable energy is quickly becoming the most cost-effective way to provide power, we are still mostly dependent on using finite fossil fuels. In the process we are continuing to do lasting damage to our environment, our health and our climate. We are also not utilizing the free and abundant renewable resources of our sun and wind to provide affordable energy to government, businesses, and citizens. It's time for us to change.

We have the technology to futurize our energy reality. We know how to harness clean, abundant energy from the sun and wind more efficiently and cheaply than ever before. And experts agree that if we combine these clean energy sources with increased energy efficiency, a world powered by clean, renewable energy is increasingly within our reach.

We're already on our way. America produces nearly eight times more renewable energy from the sun and the wind than in 2007, while the average American uses 10 percent less energy than a decade ago. New Mexico is far ahead of the national average: we receive 1,400 times more solar energy and 71 times more wind energy than all the electricity we consume within the Land of Enchantment.

So what's holding us back? The past. We're stuck in old ways of thinking about energy, old ways of capturing and delivering it that worked in the 19th and 20th centuries, but have no place in the 21st. We need to make a collective decision to get unstuck, to protect our children's future.

Across the country, communities are coming together to adopt modern energy policy. Neighbors, institutions, businesses and even state governments are putting clean energy solutions in place and setting remarkable goals for the future. Dozens of major corporations, including General Motors, Walmart and Google, have committed to power their operations with 100 percent renewable energy. Universities, including Cornell University, Boston University and Colorado State University have set similar goals.

The city already gets 7 percent of electricity from renewable energy - a great start, but we can do so much more to harness the power of the sun and wind.

The Las Cruces City Council will vote on a resolution on Monday to set a goal to get 25 percent of the city's electricity from solar energy by 2022 and 100 percent from renewable energy by 2050.

Investing in renewable energy is a win-win for Las Cruces: it will protect the environment, improve public health, save the City money, and create local jobs.

We encourage the City Council to adopt these goals and make Las Cruces a statewide leader in renewable energy, assisting New Mexico with reclaiming our national renewable energy leadership status.

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Comment:

The headline, "Renewable energy plan would mean a cleaner Las Cruces," is more virtue-signaling, just as that helical wind generator on the roof downtown, sitting idle most of the time, is virtue-signaling. "Cleaner Las Cruces?"

After all the fluff, this opinion piece gets to the point with these words, "In the process we are continuing to do lasting damage to our environment, our health and our climate. We are also not utilizing the free and abundant renewable resources..."

It takes a special kind of ignorance to write this stuff. Carbon Dioxide is the elixir of life; using fossil fuels enriches our atmosphere with this gas, an odorless, colorless and natural compound which is the source of ALL the carbohydrates we consume to sustain ourselves.

<https://youtu.be/P2qVnK6zFgE>

Yes, with the now record-breaking crop yields,

<http://northernag.net/AGNews/AgNewsStories/TabId/657/ArtMID/2927/ArticleID/3715/-New-World-Record-Corn-Yield.aspx>

<https://www.agweb.com/article/iowa-farmers-break-corn-soybean-harvest-and-yield-records-apnews/>

the price of wholesome food is decreasing, THAT's the health benefit.

The writers of this column are clearly ignorant of Henry's Law, which says that TEMPERATURE controls the amount of CO2 in the atmosphere; they seem to go along with the IPCC's erroneous contention that CO2 controls temperature. Besides, a little warming would go a long way to reduce the numbers who freeze to death, 20 times more than die from the heat. This fact was, amazingly, published in the SUN NEWS and their corporate bosses at USA Today:

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/weather/2015/05/20/cold-weather-deaths/27657269/>

This notion of "free" energy is bogus. The natural gas extracted from the "Oil Patch" in southeast New Mexico is also free, but the natural gas has many advantages over wind and solar and does not require subsidies. Wind Energy needs subsidies, and it kills songbirds, raptors and bats, you should read my essay on this:

<https://www.masterresource.org/debate-issues/audubon-goes-over-the-edge/>

Solar energy is not "free." Who do you think pays for those full-page ads in the paper and those fancy ads on the radio and TV, touting solar energy? If you answered the solar company, you would be wrong, because the subsidies from OUR TAX DOLLARS pay for those ads. Besides, solar energy disappears when the sun goes down, so it is not dispatchable as a reliable energy source, as is the electricity from gas (and coal) generators.

These subsidies for renewables makes electricity more expensive.

Think of it, the well-heeled asking that the subsidies for these tax-gobbling "renewables" continue to be spent, making electricity in a state where poverty is endemic more expensive. According to the EIA, there are about 86 years of natural gas proven reserves,

<https://www.eia.gov/tools/faqs/faq.php?id=58&t=8>
or, into the 22d century.

However, with the ability to exploit source rock with horizontal drilling and fracking, the reserves are increasing with time, so the mumbling about "finite reserves" is without merit.

Let's get rid of the subsidies and let the various sources of energy compete in the free market. Let's allow the energy companies provide inexpensive and abundant energy to all customers and allow the poorest among us to enjoy the fruits of free markets.

And for the authors, how about reading up on the realities of the science and economics of free markets and using what critical thought process you might have to educate yourselves on the errors of your efforts here.

ROBERT W. ENDLICH