

LWV Ohio Statehouse Day – April 26, 2016
LWVO Lobbyist Report
Alternative Energy (LWVUS Positions on Natural Resources)
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Legislation

Currently the alternative energy goals, set by the legislature in 2008, are frozen at 2015 levels. The freeze was part of a bill that set up a study committee, which met in the first half of last year. The committee duly recommended that the freeze continue indefinitely, based on questionable evidence. We combined with several other organizations to submit a report (<http://tinyurl.com/lwvo-2016-01>) to the study committee, making the following opposite points:

- Residential electric rates have risen sharply over the past ten years.
- Renewable energy contributed a tiny fraction to this rise.
- Energy conservation has saved Ohioans many millions of dollars.

We expect to see a bill extending the freeze indefinitely; we will produce strong testimony asking that the upward increase in alternative energy goals, as planned before the freeze, be resumed.

Ohio Alternative Energy Report Card

Ohio electricity consumption has decreased by about eight percent since 2008. Ohio families have saved over \$600 million in that time.

Construction of wind farms in Ohio has stalled since 2012, probably because of uncertainty in state energy policy. Currently we have enough wind power to serve about 100,000 homes. But the log jam is breaking – three projects in the final stages of planning should go on line by the end of 2018 and almost triple capacity.

Solar energy is small, only about ten percent of wind energy.

Your Electric Bill

Most electric bills reported alternative energy costs starting in March, 2016 (typically around \$4). These added charges are not new – they have been imposed since 2009. But the legislature mandated the reporting, feeling that an aroused citizenry would rise up and demand the charges be abolished. The revolt hasn't happened.

You can lower your bill by conservation. If you are using more than 1000 kWh per month, you are using more than the average Ohio household. Energy Star <https://www.energystar.gov/> is a good starting point to learn about conservation.