

NYSERDA Climate Action Council Draft Scoping Plan Comments

I have been a lifelong advocate for caring for the earth and for people. I have many issues with this plan, but confine my comments to two references:

Reference #1: Chapter 13. Electricity (Page 154)

Table 10. Electricity Sector Key Strategies by Theme

E7. Invest in Transmission and Distribution Infrastructure Upgrades

E8. Improve Reliability Planning and Markets

The increased burden on the aging, and in my community, unreliable electrical power grid:

- The major push toward electric power to serve the demand of industry, business, government, homes and transportation on an aging electrical power grid that is vulnerable to cyber attack as well as climate and weather impacts, is a major concern to me.
 - Our electric power is frequently interrupted by storms
 - Central Hudson, our electric utility provider, has been having ongoing problems with a 'new' billing system that apparently was not adequately tested. We went many months without bills and are still awaiting resolution. If utility companies can't even upgrade billing systems, how are they going to do the things required to "maintain a completely safe and reliable power grid"?
 - Dependency on an all-electric power grid for everything from lights to heat to refrigeration to vehicles requires a level of cooperation and competency that will be extremely difficult to achieve, given the self-interest that dominates the culture.
 - How is this going to affect already overburdened taxpayers?

Reference #2: Chapter 13: Electricity (Page 154)

"To decrease the use of emitting fuels in the electricity sector, New York must deploy clean energy resources such as land-based wind and solar, offshore wind, hydropower, fuel cells that use renewable fuels, and energy storage. While many programs are already in place to support and encourage these types of resources and significant progress has been made, aggressive deployment of clean resources must continue, and the effectiveness of programs and policies should be continually evaluated and changed if renewable energy is not being deployed at the pace necessary to achieve the goals on time."

- The sacrifice of rural farmland for electrical power generation is happening in my community.
 - The idea that farmland is 'reclaimable' after industrial sized solar installations age out is ridiculous. What will farmers do during the 20 year lifecycle of solar panels? Top soil has been removed in my area, set aside in a pile. Soil ecology would take an extremely long time to recover from these disturbances.
 - You can't eat power. At a time when food insecurity is both a local and a global issue, sacrificing land for power is life-threatening.
 - New York state has already deployed legislation that makes it all but impossible to assert property rights over confiscation of land for energy generation. This is another form of eminent domain.