

10/17/07

League of Women Voters fall forum on global warming

Global warming and policy issues breakout session

Lilah Glick, Clean Water Action

Clean Water Action background:

- **Created in '72, with Clean Water Act**
- **Health-related issues (mercury, water, etc)**
- **Grassroots organization**
- **Last 7-8 years: Global warming focus**

Current energy systems:

- **62% of energy from fossil fuels**
- **Coal: Almost 50 mountains blown up in the Appalachians, leaves behind toxic sludge**
- **Fossil fuels create acid rain**
- **28% energy from nuclear power – national security concerns, as well as environmental problems**
- **Environmental justice issues – production most affects**

Move towards change:

- **Global warming**
 - **Financially taxing**
 - **Health issues**
- **Chemical pollution**
 - **Breast cancer risk tripled**
 - **Male sperm count dropping**
 - **Asthma as major health problem**
- **Global warming impacts:**
 - **Last ice age caused by a 5 degree difference**
 - **Temperature climbed 1 degree since last century**
 - **Greenland ice sheet and glaciers are melting rapidly**
 - **\$20b/yr in health costs (so far)**

Fossil Fuel energy's moves:

- **Military costs for protecting Iraq**
- **Environmental impact of mining**
- **Move to extract petroleum from tar sands in Canada**
- **Tie between CO₂ and temperature increases –**
- **Move towards “clean coal” – decreases health & acid rain risks, but does not address global warming**
- **Energy companies pushing “clean coal,” biomass, and incineration as “renewable” energy uses**

Move for solutions:

- **Conservation**
- **Efficient use**
- **Clean Energy**

Federal legislation:

- **Senator Boxers bill:**
 - **80% decrease by 2050**
- **Fuel economy**
- **Efficiency incentives**

State Legislation

- **SB 534 “Global Warming Solutions Act” – 80% reductions by 2050; already adopted by other states**
- **SB 1971 “An Act to Stabilize Energy Costs” – increase to 15% renewable energy by 2020**
- **“Omnibus” energy bill – how to reach the 80% cut**

Getting involved:

- **Sending cards to Deval Patrick**
- **Write/call legislator:**
 - **www.wheredoivotema.com or 617 722 2000**
- **Op Ed / letter writing to spread the word**
- **Nov 3rd, “Step it Up!” climate actions – www.stepitup2007.org**
- **“Green up” program –**
- **New England Wind power**
- **Join a coalition**
- **Get statements signed by local representatives**

Questions:

- **Hybrid-power taxis- ways of cutting public-use vehicle energy use**
- **Nov 2nd – scorecard of northeastern states/provinces: big failures in public transportation and sprawl**
- **Move to expand the Green Line of the T**
- **Will legislation impact private residences?**
 - **No, not yet – government buildings currently LEED – enabled, but may eventually**
 - **Good number of bills regulating public buildings-**
 - **CAFÉ automobile fuel-efficiency bill**