



## "The Politics of Energy and the Environment"

Posted by [Yankee](#) on December 30, 2005 - 11:12am

Topic: [Policy/Politics](#)

Tags: [alternative energy](#), [conservation](#), [peak oil](#) [[list all tags](#)]

The Canadian politician Edward R. Schreyer [argues for energy conservation](#):

The reality is that the very scale and nature of the problem is so great that it requires the adoption of all practical efforts and renewable, sustainable alternatives. This includes promotion of the conservation ethic—use less, waste less. It includes promotion of all efforts toward greater efficiency in energy and resource use; building better, smaller and with more insulation, more allowance for solar gain, etc. These are some examples that come mind. Acceptance of new technologies that have passed tests of feasibility must be encouraged. The slow rate at which geothermal heat pumps are being installed as an alternative to gas heating is a disappointing case in point. The technology is known. The capacity to install must be encouraged and ramped up but who will do this? One potential stakeholder awaits the other and governments remain passive bystanders. So it proceeds at a snail's pace.

Disclaimer: I have not yet read this whole article, but I was intrigued by [Energy Bulletin's comments](#) on it:

Long historical overview that makes some good points about familiar themes. Interesting to see at the end 'moderation' [a.k.a. sustainability?] being framed as a moral issue—how to save your skin and feel superior at the same time?



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