

Wednesday, January 7, 2009

New strategy report recommends energy-saving measures

New Mexico Business Weekly

The New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department released a new report with 25 policy options to meet Gov. Bill Richardson's goal of cutting state energy use per capita by 20 percent by 2020.

The options include measures targeting utilities, the public sector, buildings and appliances, the industrial sector and transportation.

If all the policy options were adopted, the report estimates electricity use would drop by 24 percent by 2020, natural gas by 20 percent, and gasoline use by 26 percent compared to currently forecasted levels of energy use. Those reductions would result in \$7.2 billion in net economic savings for citizens and businesses in New Mexico, while reducing the state's greenhouse gas emissions by 8.7 million metric tons.

The Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP) prepared the report for the state with funding from the EMNRD, the U.S. Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The report, titled "New Mexico Energy Efficiency Strategy: Policy Options," is available online for free at www.cleanenergy.org under Hot Topics, or by writing to Ken Hughes at khughes@state.nm.us.