

Submitted By: Mindy Miner
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Ideas for Utility Companies & State-Level Policy Changes

Suggestions for utilities

- Change business model – instead of a guaranteed profit to protect against stranded assets and capital outlay, which only encourages the use of more electricity, get paid instead on efficiency and carbon reduction targets. With more EVs coming and eventual higher natural gas prices for heating homes, there will be plenty of profit in electricity. Where will it come from? Need to work on efficiency by “flattening the curve” rather than opening new expensive gas and peaker plants (or worse yet, going back to coal!).
- Sell home batteries for customers to charge during off-peak times to use during peak load.
- Rent rooftops for new solar gardens from big box stores, residents, etc. We will need the farmland being used for large solar gardens to feed the expected 10 billion people soon to inhabit this planet!
- Offer rebates for customers who switch from gas to electric heat.
- Offer pricing incentives for electricity – like “preferred users” or frequent fliers to make the cost more competitive with current natural gas prices
- Offer rebates for electric appliances, such as induction stoves, water heaters, dryers.

State-level Policy changes needed

- New building efficiency codes – stop using gas in new construction
- State tax credits for solar and heat pumps, in addition to federal tax credits.
- Offer grants for solar and heat pumps for tax-exempt entities.
- Carbon pricing with dividends given to residents to defray costs; need a Great Lakes consortium like RGGI on the east coast if no action at federal level.
- Consulting service for communities to help with setting carbon goals, tracking energy usage, educating the public.
- Require a HERS score on all real estate transactions; rental property should have to meet a certain level. (This would create jobs, making housing costs more equitable, and give municipalities a tool to use in GHG reduction goals.)