



November 23, 2009

**The Global Warming Task Force:  
A Special Series of Hot Air Reports – Part 6  
*In Your Home, In Your Community***

In previous reports I've talked about how Governor Doyle's Global Warming Task Force thinks the state should control how you drive, determine what you put in your gas tank, and how much you pay for electricity. Unfortunately, the Task Force recommendations go way beyond these measures. The Governor also wants to control your home and community.

As we await introduction of legislation based on the Task Force recommendations, let's take a look at more of the intrusive regulations and laws the Task Force wants the state to enact.

**Mandatory Upgrades of Single-Family Homes and Multi-Family Rental Units**

Thinking about selling your home? If the Task Force has its way, you might have to install costly energy efficiency upgrades first. The Task Force says voluntary emission reduction programs may be inadequate for stopping global warming, so the Legislature and DNR should study making energy upgrades *mandatory* before selling your home.

The Task Force may try to tell you it's not a burden; you'll get your money back when you sell. That's possible, but if you are in a tough financial situation, floating this cost might be devastating if your house doesn't sell right away. As we all know, houses can stay on the market for a long time, especially in this economy.

On the flip side, if you are looking to purchase a home, mandatory upgrades will make home prices rise. Fewer people will be able to afford homes. Depending on the age of a home, these energy efficiency upgrades could add hundreds of dollars onto the price.

**Net Zero Energy Buildings**

Building a new home or a business won't be immune from more DNR regulations. The Task Force's "*ultimate objective*" is to "*realize zero energy usage,*" or "*zero-demand*" buildings. By 2030, new commercial buildings would be "*zero-demand,*" followed by residential buildings in 2040.

How much would it cost to build a “zero energy” home? The Task Force says the cost will be “very small,” but this makes no sense when current homes and buildings are nowhere near “zero-demand.” Twenty or thirty years from now, will anyone be willing to build homes or businesses in Wisconsin?

Building codes in Wisconsin would have to adjust to any future changes in the International Energy Conservation Code. **You’ll recall this isn’t the only instance the Task Force recommends giving up Wisconsin’s control over regulations to an out-of-state bureaucratic authority.** It also recommends implementing California vehicle emission standards in Wisconsin, and then requiring our state to change those standards as California changes its own standards.

### **Energy Efficient Communities**

“*Energy Efficient Communities?*” The Task Force wants to completely eliminate the concept of local control from our state. The wind siting regulations passed by the Legislature earlier this fall were certainly a step in that direction.

Under this proposal, Wisconsin would undertake “*regulatory action*” to “*reduce vehicle miles traveled by individuals.*” The Task Force wants your community to develop public transit, walking and biking options. Model parking standards would be designed to include small parking spaces for microcars. Planning “*should emphasize multimodal accessibility (auto, pedestrian & bicycling) as the highest goal rather than roadway mobility.*”

Additionally, the proposal would task the DNR “*to assist local governments in becoming Energy Efficient Communities.*” This would be just one more example of Democrats handing over new types of authority to the DNR.

Drive less, drive slower, buy a microcar, buy a car approved by California, fill up with ethanol, ride your bike, walk to work, pay more for electricity, buy your electricity from windmills, fix up your house, and build a better house next time around.

Governor Doyle’s Task Force wants you to pay more to build, buy and sell your home or business. Not only will it cost more, the state will control more of your property and how you get around your community. The state wants the DNR to control every facet of your life.

Access all my reports online, at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/assembly/asm23/news/media.htm>.

---

*If you wish to remove yourself from the mailing list, please respond back to this email with the subject line "REMOVE".*

---

State Capitol • Room 317 North • Post Office Box 8953 • Madison, WI 53708  
(608) 266-0486 • District: (262) 240-0808 • Toll Free: (888) 534-0023  
Rep.Ottj@legis.wi.gov