

RCII-13 Comments
Recommendation 13
Metering technologies w/opportunity for load management and choice

The economic impacts of any legislation must be determined and be a part of the decision.

Government meddling/incentives rarely result in progress. Montana should be working to remove barriers to progress not impeding them by adding bureaucracy that adds no value to the end product. Furthermore, this report was based on a politically correct directive which assumes there is a man-made climate crisis. While this assumption has the backing of the media and politicians it has little support from the scientific community. Hence the reporting by the media of the relative minority that support the theory.

also need intergrated generation smart distribution to maximize renewable energy oppourtunies in all areas of the state irrespective of infrastructure

We we really use this information to the best advantage?

As long as it is discretionary and not mandatory to the consumers, this idea could be supported.

As long as this is not mandatory to the consumer.

There should be a cost/benefit analysis required. The benefits do not justify the costs using sound science. More taxes, regulations and red tape is not what will help Montana. Private energy companies shouldn't need a "program"...they should want to come to the table.

People already have power bills to tell them how much they are using--how is this an improvement?

Cost for implementation absorbed by whom?

A smart metering pilot on NWE's system did not prove to be cost efficient because of the nature of NWE's resources. It is not likely to be cost effective for BPA customers. A program for MDU or public customers of Basin Electric Coop customers may make sense because they relie more on thermal resources for peaking loads.

Be sure to include a range of economic units, such as low-income housing.

A pilot program is a waste of time and money. All utilities will have to join the smart grid in the near future- let's just do it. And let's do it with carrots and sticks. Conservation, new technologies, demand management, etc are alldependent on smart grid.

Good idea so long as it doesn't end up serving as some means of government controlling individual energy usage down the road.

Who dictates how warm or cool I keep my house? Who pays the bill to the utility company? Is this stepping on the freedoms contained in the Bill Of Rights?

If it is needed, let the free market offer it.

Most rural electric co-ops are installing smart meter technologies on their own.

Great plan. people want to know and be educated. It would create great public awareness to energy usage. I work for MDU in Billings. The average person has know idea of how much energy they and their city consume or what it takes to generate it.

Related to this, you can have consumers install special meters that cut off their air conditioning during peak demand, in return for a break on their electrical bill.

They do this in Europe.

Individuals can only do so much with this issue, we need strong and numerous government action of many forms and formats...

Who pays for the meters? Will it be a pass through cost to consumers?

So long as this remains a choice for consumers and power companies I would support this.

Sounds like a great idea and that sector could benefit from that data, but again, I wonder how you would plan to pay for these ideas. Please don't just add these costs to our utility bills.

Let homeowners make their own and sell it back to the co-ops and NW and MDU.

What you would like to be like California

I think even an additional 20% by 2020 is aggressive. Once that is achieved, however, progress should continue with the goal being 100%.

This information can already be obtained by examining the monthly bill.

I'm in favor of this on two conditions.

1) The recommendation isn't clear to me that consumers would be charged the actual cost of electricity *at the time* that they use it. Allowing customers to directly effect their own energy bill by shifting certain high energy tasks (like drying clothes) to different days or times of day.

2) I recall reading of a similar program in Washington State that failed miserably. My impression was that it failed because the difference in electricity cost between peak and non-peak times was so small, that it wasn't worth it for participating consumers to time-shift their hi-energy consumption tasks. Before any such program is implemented in Montana this needs to be studied we must be reasonably sure that the differences in cost between peak and non-peak times is significant enough to motivate consumers to do their part to save themselves money.

This should be done by the utility for NO COST, it is a part of redoing the infrastructure. Price per Kilowatt/Hr is stupid as it is now done: Off hours usage should be at reduced rates.

An additional \$20 a month to my bill? I don't think so. If the MEIC is so hot for this crap, let them pay for the meter replacements.

I'd like to see the conversion happen faster and possibly be in tandem with programmable thermostats and other technologies to manage and meter personal consumption.

As long as the meters are paid for by the individual consumer who requests it and not all ratepayers.

How about subsidizing smart, efficient residential systems instead: ground loop heat pumps, solar, wind, gray-water, etc.

This should not be funded with tax money, but it is a great idea if the utilities establish this program out of their own pocket.

People have bills. They can read them. It is not fiscally responsible to fund a program like this - nor to pass the cost off to the consumers.

This new metering system requires an expensive infrastructure with the cost past on to the ratepayer. What is the cost effective outcome.

Yes, everyone should have a direct economic incentive to save energy.

Again, let private business handle this (like the energy audits)

House energy audit would do this, I feel, and utility companies already offer this service. Maybe more info with billing on how to reduce usage? There is also an individual appliance watt meter so if one is considering a new appliance before the "death" of the old one, homeowner can determine if it really would be a green choice.

Maybe.....

education should allow the consumer to understand the cost of energy without the expense of meters...

would like to see the percentages be higher sooner!!

Yes!!!

If people are interested this is already stated on bills and more detail could be given there instead of purchasing meters.

This will lead to "demand" management costs similar to commercial buildings and will be a disaster for residential consumers who have little ability to change their energy use habits.

As a consumer, I welcome this type of information however, how much will it cost?

I think this is throwing good money after bad. The data is already in. With half an ounce of sense and some good examples at all levels, people should be able to see the difference without sticking the money into something that has no return.

Excellent.

Easy, market-based approach.

Only if there is a funding program to pay for the new meters.

another attempt to create govt jobs...no way.

People need power when they need it! Smart meters are a bad idea.

CONSUMERS SHOULD PAY PART OF COST. WITHOUT BUYIN, THEY ARE NOT LIKELY TO MAKE ANY ADJUSTMENTS TO USAGE.

People already can read their existing meters and receive monthly statements. Is this really worth the trouble? Perhaps consider a pilot study to see if it even makes a difference.

A pilot of this should be tried prior to a full-blown initiative.

It's time for ALL of our utilities to get up to speed and give us the metering services we deserve. Plus, they stand to save big bucks, especially when all the cheap power from BPA expires.

The populace will not approve of smart meters - they have been tried and open the door to manipulation of people's power choices by someone other than that person

How much buy in are the energy companies exhibiting?

I think we should all be more aware of how much we use and where it comes from

This is an issue that is becoming more apparent. Residents are not aware of their energy use, when they are using it, when it is more expensive for utility companies to produce energy- raising prices-, and what it is costing them. I've heard suggestions on having customers pay for real time costs and that would shift the demand load.

People already get monthly statements. Maybe a pilot study would be ok to see if it makes a difference.

NO

Has the cost been communicated to the public? Has the cost been quantified? Is there any data that shows that this will substantially change consumers energy habits?

What a waste of time and money! I know what my energy costs are and what to do to control them. It's my choice, if I want to turn the thermostat down I can, if I want to leave it high and pay the price I can.

As an educational tool I believe that this could be very effective.

This seems like a lower priority. How many people are going to run outside and look at their meters?

I believe this should be done by the power companies addressing their customers' requirements for affordable energy, NOT by the government through mandates.

Who pays? Green at what cost?

education through other avenues is probably more effective

Increased operating costs that will be passed on to those who can't afford it.

To pay for these things, you have to take the money, by force, from the people.

Utilities should take the lead on this.

Most people won't change their habits anyway.

Voluntary only.

nice thought but a waste of money,like bying a new car after awhile the shine goes away,better putting this money some place else

What is this going to cost and what is this going to save? "Big brother" is getting way out of hand here.

Let do more! Why not all the homes!

Please read <http://www.oism.org/pproject/> and learn about 19,000 scientists who have signed a petition refuting global warming. Why don't we listen to these guys instead of the 2,000+ purported "scientists" (many were not) who started this story.

This Action Plan was not a Montana grassroots Plan. It was the same plan written for California and other states. Montana's poor and middle class cannot pay any more for energy. Who is going to pay for this smart program???

<http://www.righttalk.com/asx/ggws.asx>

The above video destroys the myth of human caused global warming. Get informed. The truth shall make you free.

As long as consumers do not have to pay out of pocket for such meters.

It's called your monthly power bill!

NO Meters costing the consumer more!

I am 62 years old, I have own or rented my own house, I am the Pastor of a church and I can probably count on finger and toes the number of times I have look at a meter to see if it was even working much less how fast it was turning. Who will pay, the consumer-taxpayer.

This might work if it were connect to a computer or a cell phone that beeped every time i was going above a set amount of energy use. How annoying. I have an energy use meter in my home, if the Light are on and I am know using them, I know I am wasting energy, do I shut them off. sometimes, sometimes not.

How much is this going to cost the consumer? Big business passes these costs onto us, don't you see that? You give them tax incentives and we get to pay for it. If this is your notion of help, please DON'T. I don't need you to mandate some gadget so I will know to turn off a light or buy a more efficient bulb.

Make it a voluntary program if you think this would even be effective. Sounds costly. People who are interested in conserving energy are probably already doing it.

Or, a better example would be "help the government organize your utilities so that the consumer can be manipulated at will."

And, does the consumer pay??

once again a good idea as long as it is not manditory and the cost of the meter is absorbed by the savings of energy.

A pilot program should be set up to first see if the program will do what it says. If so program could be implemented state wide

What is the cost?

If the public wants these make them available. The targets indicate that folks would be forced to buy them or the utility would have to purchase. The consumer ultimately pays.

Again more quicker... 20% by 2011 and 50% by 2020

A pilot program should be set up to first see if the program will do what it says. If so program could be implemented state wide.

If the opportunity is not required and is affordable.

I like this recommendation as it allows the people to make their own choices based on accurate information.

Who pays for the installation of these meters? Sounds like a great idea.

This system is expensive to install, but a good pilot program in the state should be developed

Would support if it is restricted to our government offices/buildings.

Sure & again who pays for this? The tax payer or a surcharge on all consumers?

Not sure how effective this is.

Maybe. I know that some engineering companies are beginning to work with utilities in CA to set up a system where energy consumption could be turned down at the utility plant. Meters were need to be different to include such a possibility.

I would like to see this introduced immediately.

Duh, the meters already display consumption.

I like this approach especially if it can be coupled with a pricing approach that allows consumers to get cheaper electricity in off-peak hours.

What would this cost the consumer?

This would be okay if I wasn't forced to install one of the smart meters and had to pay a rate increase for people to install them.

other ways to accomplish the same thing with existing meters

Overkill. The only people that look at the power meters on their homes, are the kids that like seeing the dials move. When your heating bill is over \$250 for a small home, don't you think that the average Montanan is trying to do everything that we can to save energy? Hooray for energy de-regulation!!!

raise costs

Although this seems like a great idea, I think there would be better ways to help customers track their energy usage.

not sure this is feasible to begin in less than one year.

Who is getting paid off by the special meter maker? This will cause undue financial burden on citizens and have no benefit.

this is highly supportable

sounds very cool. I support, but not the highest priority.

Allow utility and customer incentives.

Can't people read their bills?

Just as long as it is voluntary. Sounds expensive.

The cost would be passed on to consumers. Not feasible.

If that is something consumers want, then let the market dictate their implementation.

I think this would be fine if we had all kinds of extra money in the state. However, I think that with energy education at a local level accompanied with the ever skyrocketing energy costs will get at the same thing. People will either have to choose and or be mandated to make choices.

Will home owners pay for meters on voluntary basis?

What additional cost to consumer to find out what I already know when I pay my utility bill?

All forms of education are vital to making this a successful plan of action.

How much do these special meters cost?

Need to know whether this is effective before spending lots of money on it

Put the cost of this program into reducing fossil fuel dependence or other conservation measures. The meter sellers do not need more money.

Yes, people need to know how much energy they use so they can manage their cost and efficiency.

We get a bill every month for our energy use, I think I know what it costs.

A meter for consumers to measure their energy usage can, and will, assist government to view this same knowledge. Then government can lower the boom and fine citizens for using more energy than the government 'think tank' recommends. No only a poor idea for the citizens, but a natural path leading to dictatorship.

\$25 killawatt meter (amazon.com) is a great way to watch power use for an individual appliance

NO need for this, consumers are reminded each month what it costs-so would any consumer go look at their meter every little bit?

All of these are 'feel good' expensive bulls**t legislation. Global warming is NOT a fact (cold records set last winter in the southern hemisphere) so it might be Northern hemisphere warming, but not global. Secondly, latest studies of the sun spots (that control global temperatures more than humans) indicate that within 20 years we will be back in a 'mini-ice age'. Not politically correct, but MUCH more accurate.

Cost vs Benefit?

Waste of \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

Better yet an inverted price structure _ wastrels pay.

Optional only

Who pays for this wonderful idea which makes us all feel morally superior?

Should be 100% of buildings by 2020.

This is none of government's business!

consumer can't afford this

How do smart meters lower use and who pays for them?

Most of us can read meters now, and our utility bills show the rates charged. Could this be done with the education mentioned above? What would be the costs of these meters and who would be responsible for paying for it? If people who rent out homes, apartments and such pay for it, the cost would probably be passed along to the renter in form of higher rent. Again, some of us cannot afford higher rents.

lets look at cost to the State, and especially cost to the company. we do not need higher rates due to higher taxes or higher price of service to comply with regulation. Looks like a way to spend more money.

Very much in favor of any consumer feedback systems to encourage conservation, as more cost-effective and less coercive.

DEPENDS ON WHO HAS TO PAY FOR THE NEW METERS

Doesn't our utility bill provide this info? Seems a bit unnecessary to me

Good luck-I don't see how or why this will help-and I worked for 30 years for a utility-Montana Power!! I don't get what you mean. Who will care-% wise?

good idea...would these meters be free or would there be a cost?

Seems like an expensive waste of money.

I am not sure about this one either, it sounds like a good idea, what are the costs of the meters compared to energy audits.

good idea ! Let us see where energy is being wasted !

Our power bills already show our usage for 13 months.

I support this legislation but think the targets are too conservative.

Government should not spen money on this but rather use a code to get utility companies to do this already on new homes

It seems one would know what uses energy. Not sure about this idea.

Very important...we should get some credit for doing all we can.

unconstitutional search with out warrants! Also, the old meters do that already, I get a bill and I know the usage. I don't need no stinking expensive meter and I don't need to pay for some idiot who can't read their electric bill to have that stinking expensive meter.
This is currently availableit is called a utility bill.

So consumers have additional expenses...not feasible.

Pilot program would not automatically target 30% before evaluating the impact of the 10%. Such meters would only be a small part of the many efficiency management strategy. Will cost consumers more money.

This is a great idea and one that I've never understood why it hasn't happened yet. The only downside is if the energy companies charged the consumer for these changes and how much would that be.

I already know what the cost of my energy use is. We don't need more legislation to provide something we already have. And at what cost?

I'd like to see these percentages increased from 10% to 30% and additionally to 60% by 2015.

Not a bad idea

Excellent.

No Position

If the energy companies are amenable to OFFERING a NON-MANDATED installation, fine.

Already have one and it is no help. Just way to charge more for electricity.

I'm not sure this will accomplish much - can't consumers see/figure it out from their bills?

Montana should loosen its restrictions on net metering.

Information based on sound data is key to citizens making sound decisions.

Another cost to pass on to consumers. Make them available, but not a mandate.

This is a frivolous recommendation that would only waste additional energy and financial resources. Doesn't the Advisory Committee think people are smart enough to figure this out from their existing meter readings of consumption and resulting costs on their bill?

Don't people already know what the cost of energy is?

Perhaps rather than expensive meters, just spelling out more information on billing statements with ideas and suggestions for more efficient use and savings.

Some power companies already give a different rate for different times of days. Is this something the state has to get involved in?

In addition, allow for residential and commercial applications of alternative energy to sell "back to the utility" - remove any caps on how much can be sold back to the utility - this allows for individuals to "bank" energy savings with alternative energies and save money and energy

EMPHASIS ON NON RESIDENTIAL HERE.

A pilot project is a great idea to determine benefits. Targets of increasing saturation are very premature unless the pilot program proves benefits of larger scale implementation which will vary greatly by utility and the utilities generation mix.

When we see how we waste energy we can do something direct to change that wasting.

More government crap.

What would the cost be?

Who isn't getting a energy bill? Look at the usage -times it by the rate- and you have how much you are using. Less usage = less energy costs.

Essential for residents to understand and regulate their energy use patterns. Has shown remarkable success in other countries, such as Italy.

We need to use every means at our disposal.

This information already comes with the monthly bill.

This is a great idea, but the utilities should do it on their own without tax incentive from Montana. Perhaps a negative approach by additional tax for not complying.

...and provide incentives for non peak hour energy use.

This is a fantastic proposal which has worked in other markets and is a great tool to enlighten the individual to his own inefficiencies.

All utilities in state should do this including coops.

WE HAVE THESE NOW---THEY ARE CALLED "MONTHLY POWER BILLS"---

Utilities should be in favor of this initiative, just as they have supported weatherization and conservation.

Respondent does not have sufficient information or knowledge to rank this recommendation.

No No No!

Could be effective if done correctly. Apparently being done in Europe. Would require some sacrifice by consumers. Need education also.

What is the cost of this program? I doubt the energy savings would even come close to justifying.

Who would pay for these meters? I assume they would be added to my electric bill. Thanks. Do you really think that consumers do not know what uses electricity? Due to higher rates, we already turn off un-needed lights and turn down the thermostat. Do you really think that when the kids come home from school hungry and their clothes need washed for the next day that we are going to say "sorry kids, that meter is just running too fast, we won't be eating tonight"?

there is climate change. But mans impact is limited. Maybe as little as less than 3-5% need cost benefit analysis

Yes comrad let big brother keep an eye on your home.

Support as long as net metering is considered. I don't care about data transparency, allow me to sell back renewable energy to the grid.

How about 100% of homes and non residential buildings?

too quick to get done

What about incentives to reward timing of energy use to off-peak load use.

Why should I care if my neighbor wants to pay more than me for his electric bill.

I think most of us get a bill, generally that shows how much energy we use and the cost. But you need to be prepared for those who blindly pay their bills or can't read, this would certainly help them.

This would be great if we had a large number of consumers, or time of day pricing. I would rather see utilities structure rates to increase as usage increases.