

ENERGY/CLIMATE CHANGE POSITION

The League of Women Voters of Delaware is aligned with its national organization in its belief that climate change represents a serious threat to the environment, the economies and security of all nations, and the health and welfare of people around the world. The correlation between global temperature increases and rising concentrations of carbon dioxide indicates the need to sharply reduce emissions of all greenhouse gases including carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide.

The Energy/Climate Change Position resulted from a continuation of the Energy Study; i.e., to study an energy plan for Delaware minimizing climate change. A position was arrived at by consensus of members and approved by the Board in March 2011.

The League of Women Voters of Delaware supports an aggressive and comprehensive energy use/climate change plan for Delaware. Some key points that should be included:

Accelerate bringing new green businesses, jobs and industries to Delaware, and investigate emerging energy technologies.

Set targets and a timetable for reducing Delaware's total greenhouse gas emissions.

Plan for extensive adaptation measures at all levels of government for climate change impacts that cannot be avoided---especially sea level rise.

Support public education and outreach; expand renewable energy and climate change in Delaware curriculum standards.

As Delaware calculates energy costs, full life cycle analyses* with all externalities must be included.**

Social and economic justice must be considered in implementing energy and climate change policy.

*Life cycle analysis is a technique to assess environmental impacts associated with all the stages of a product's life from cradle-to-grave (i.e., from raw material extraction through materials processing, manufacture, distribution, use repair and maintenance, and disposal or recycling).

**Energy externalities are external costs and benefits--health, environmental, security, and infrastructure--associated with the production, distribution, and consumption of energy that are not, or may not be fully incorporated into the market price.