

NC SAVE\$

Bringing REAL Energy Efficiency to North Carolina!

What is NC SAVE\$? NC SAVE\$ is a proposal by 14 consumer, social justice, senior and environmental groups to create an independent (non-utility) energy efficiency program to make the economic and environmental benefits of energy efficiency and conservation available statewide. The NC Utilities Commission recently agreed to consider NC SAVE\$. Visit www.NCSavesEnergy.org to see the full proposal.

Who would NC SAVE\$ help? All North Carolinians, with a commitment to spread the savings, jobs and environmental benefits as widely as possible, especially to low income consumers, through diverse, cost-effective programs.

How would NC SAVE\$ work? The program could be funded initially by a small consumption fee on utility bills or a public bond, and governed by a non-profit or an existing "public benefit" organization. Installations and services would be carried out by non-profit and for-profit contractors, and all programs would be reviewed annually for cost-effectiveness and overall value to the public. Services would be available to all energy customers, and could include efficiency measures for gas and other fuels, too. Programs could include weatherizing homes, appliance maintenance and upgrades, energy efficiency technology like timers for lights and a/c and any other cost-effective activity. Families would get help with costs of efficiency technology by allowing financing over time, so they'd get savings on energy bills while paying off the improvements. Six states have implemented statewide programs, lowering energy costs for millions of customers, creating thousands of jobs and reducing greenhouse gases by millions of tons a year. For a full report, visit www.cwfnc.org.

Why not just let the electric utilities run their own efficiency programs, like Duke Energy's "Save-a-Watt"? The mission of the utilities is to generate and distribute power for a profit. Expecting utilities to manage energy efficiency involves an inherent conflict of interest, rather like paying Krispy Kreme to design your diet plan. Most of the economic benefits of energy efficiency go to utility shareholders instead of customers. Programs like "Save-a-Watt" charge too much and accomplish too little. An independently administered program would have a mission to carry out cost-effective efficiency activities in the public interest.

Who supports NC SAVE\$? AARP-NC, Appalachian Voices, NC ACORN, Carolinas Clean Air Coalition, City of Durham, Clean Water for NC, NC Interfaith Power and Light, a program of the NC Council of Churches, Legal Aid of NC, NC Fair Share, NC Housing Coalition, NC Justice Center, NC Public Interest Research Group, NC Waste Awareness and Reduction Network, Nuclear Information and Resource Service-Southeast.

How can my organization help create a statewide efficiency program?

- 1) Fill out the survey and return to hope@cwfn.org. Tell other organizations!
- 2) Contact your local and state representatives to spread the good news about what NC SAVE\$ can do and ask for their support.
- 3) Contact us and ask how YOU can help with the NC SAVE\$ campaign: Durham ACORN (919- 682-4273), Clean Water for NC (919-401-9600 or 828-251-1291), NC PIRG (919-833-2070), NC WARN (919-259-3140)

NC SAVE\$ SUPPORT SURVEY, ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

I'd like my organization to consider supporting NC *SAVE\$*, an independently administered statewide energy efficiency program.

My name: _____

My organization: _____

Phone, email: _____

Brief summary of your organization's mission:

How will supporting NC *SAVE\$* help your organization's work and members?

Do you have a specific recommendation of a program to include in NC *SAVE\$* that can specifically help your members, constituents or clients of your services?

_____ My organization has reviewed NC *SAVE\$* and we are ready to officially support this proposal. Please tell me how we can help!

_____ NC *SAVE\$* is strongly aligned with my organization's mission and we would like to consider legally intervening with other groups in the NC *SAVE\$* docket of the NC Utilities Commission. Please let the attorneys working with the non-profits know and contact me about next steps for intervening.