

Mark Walker
Director of Public Affairs
Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Dear Mr. Walker,

Good news to learn that the region is greatly outpacing the conservation targets set in the 5th Northwest Power and Conservation Plan. According to your recent study, "A Retrospective Look at the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Conservation Planning Assumptions," the region is acquiring conservation at a much faster pace than the Plan expected.

In a former life, I helped deliver publicly funded energy saving efficiencies to qualified low income homeowners. At the time I saw a huge market for similar efficiency in homes of the modestly income who just missed the qualifying poverty levels. Now on a grass roots basis, we are working to provide energy audits that direct ANY homeowner to a lower fuel bill, lower green house gas emissions and any investment that is aimed at reducing consumption so there will be something for the next generation. All of this is the proverbial "low hanging fruit."

If BPA

gets back in the picture to pitch these efforts, we will make even bigger gains.

Apparently, these gains are being made with little assistance from the Bonneville Power Administration, which has not raised its conservation budget. If others can increase their pace of acquiring efficiency, BPA can too. Together we should be able to get 30-40% more cost-effective energy efficiency by 2023 than expected.

It is critical that we continue at or beyond the present pace and that Bonneville do its part. Unless the Council increases the 5th Plan's conservation target to reflect the real situation, BPA and other utilities might easily forego opportunities to save their customers money by acquiring all available, cost-effective conservation resources.

I urge the Council to revise the 5th Plan to increase the total 20-year "achievable" conservation target by at least 30 percent and to revise the interim targets accordingly.

Sincerely

Andrea Faste