

Kilowatt Ours

TVA Board Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on TVA's Strategic Plan, we are excited about the possibilities within this framework.

My name is Jeff Barrie, Director of Kilowatt Ours, a non-profit, non-partisan project of Trust for the Future, Inc, based in Nashville, TN. Our project grew out of the documentary film of the same name. ³Kilowatt Ours: A Plan to Re-Energize America,² follows my journey throughout the United States to learn about where electricity comes from today, how this power generation is impacting our health, economy and environment, and the benefits of energy efficiency and renewable power. The film has been seen by thousands of people throughout the Tennessee Valley and across America, including many members of the Tennessee General Assembly. Inspired by the message of ³Kilowatt Ours,² Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey made his home more energy efficient.

³Kilowatt Ours² demonstrates how our high use of coal is contributing to air pollution, mountaintop removal mining, childhood asthma, mercury contamination and global warming. While making this documentary, I learned that Tennessee has the highest rate of electricity usage per residential household in the United States, making the problems associated with coal-generated electricity even greater. I also spoke with experts on nuclear energy, learning that the life-cycle costs, both economically and environmentally, associated with splitting the atom to boil water, were too great and not worth the investment.

While making ³Kilowatt Ours,² I came across a school district in East Tennessee that cut its energy use by 40% through a performance contract (a service TVA provides). This gave me hope that we can solve the problems associated with coal and nuclear electricity generation. Sumner County Schools invested money into making their facilities more efficient, by improving windows, lighting, HVAC units and turning off computers and lights when not in use. The school district is now saving more than one million dollars annually on energy costs, which can be spent instead on improving the education of our children.

I also learned about the City of Austin, Texas who is also investing in energy efficiency. In the 1980's, the city purchased land to build a new coal fired power plant, but before building the new generation, they looked at using the electricity they are currently generating more efficiently. The public utility sends efficiency experts into homes and businesses around Austin everyday, and has done so for over twenty years. This investment has paid off and they are saving over 600 megawatts of power daily, the

equivalent to the generation of the coal-fired power plant they will never have to build.

Like Austin, the State of California has also been investing in energy efficiency for 30 years and their demand has not grown by 2% per year, like the rest of the nation, but instead they kept their electricity consumption even, while at the same time growing their economy to be the seventh largest in the world.

The energy efficiency efforts of California and Austin cost utilities half the amount of building new generation coal or nuclear, and have achieved the same results.

As you know, TVA has historically made significant investments in energy efficiency and prevented the need for eight nuclear power plants. In the late 1970's, TVA had over 300 Energy Doctors¹ that were sent throughout the Tennessee Valley to make homes and buildings more efficient. Energy efficiency works, TVA has proven this, and needs to again lead the nation in these efforts.

I urge the TVA Board to implement aggressive energy efficiency programs throughout the Tennessee Valley. By doing so, the TVA Board will be utilizing the cheapest, quickest, cleanest and most abundant source of new energy generation available today.

Energy efficiency needs to be the energy source of highest priority for TVA's Strategic Plan.

Thank you for your time and efforts.

Jeff Barrie
Director/Producer
Kilowatt Ours