

The state's energy efficiency program has a built-in conflict of interest that is keeping Massachusetts from realizing potential energy savings. Here is a step toward a solution.

The conflict is obvious: investor-owned utilities, which make money from selling more carbon-based energy, control MassSave.

To evade that conflict, the state allows utilities to recover the cost of energy efficiency programs and -- on top of that -- creates financial incentives to reach higher energy efficiency goals. But -- in a second conflict of interest -- the utilities own the data that would allow independent analysts to see if the goals are actually met. They have consistently refused to release enough data for a full analysis.

I urge the EEAC, in the next three-year plan, to:

- Put a hold on incentive payments.
- Set ambitious goals for reaching more low-moderate income ratepayers and renters, for actually implementing comprehensive demand management plans, for helping ratepayers install heat pumps, and in general for realizing ALL cost-effective efficiency measures.
- Require utilities to release all the data needed to evaluate their performance against these goals. (Ask independent analysts to define what "all the data" includes.)
- Release no incentive payments until the data have been provided and independently analyzed.

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