

Renewable energy will lead to lower rates

[Robert Mellion blames inflexible environmentalists for high energy prices](#). He doesn't mention that ISO-NE (our grid operator) can lower our electricity rates by using more, cheap renewable energy.

He doesn't mention that the cost of producing another unit of electricity from an existing oil, coal, nuclear or gas plant is the substantial, and often highly variable, price of their fuels. But producing another unit of electricity from existing renewable installations requires no fuel. Once built, they produce electricity for free.

Mellion didn't mention that it used to be common that renewable producers were forced to shut down production because fuel-based plants could meet demand and were easier to monitor. New grid technology now allows operators to rely more on renewable electricity instead of fuel-based plants.

He also didn't mention that renewable electricity producers are willing to pay ISO to use their electricity. When they pay ISO — please, take my electricity — they're effectively sharing their profits with ratepayers.

Want more information? See the Conservation Law Foundation's blog: "The old paradigm in which renewable energy could be plausibly criticized as being too expensive is changing. ... Although the general public does not know these facts, the owners of fossil-fuel generators sure do! That's why they are so unhappy that the ISO is introducing negative-price offers into New England — even though we ratepayers will benefit significantly."

If ratepayers want lower prices, they should push for more renewable installations, and less fuel-based electricity.

Judy Weiss

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