

Letter: Support a rebatable carbon tax

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Thank you for Michael Holtzman's fact-filled article on the Brayton Point coal-powered plant's sale and upcoming closure, and questions about the property's future use.

Wouldn't it be fantastic if the property was used for solar energy? With electrical wiring already in place, solar-generated electricity would be easy to distribute.

Citigroup, a lead investment banking group, forecasts a sunny future for solar power due to economics, the need for fuel diversity and legislative requirements protecting the environment. Economically, solar arrays have dropped significantly in price. In many regions solar has attained grid parity with natural gas.

Solar electricity won't experience the price fluctuations that make natural gas an unreliable source of energy. Many investment groups realize that the recent foray into fracking gas has driven down natural gas prices, but they do not expect prices to remain low much longer. Many advise diversification into solar to hedge against inevitable surges in natural gas prices.

If Massachusetts had a state carbon pollution tax, renewable energy businesses would shine, we would meet our emissions goals faster, and people would stop trying to sell us a new natural gas pipeline to carry fracked gas that we don't want.

Please urge your Massachusetts representative and senator to support a state carbon pollution tax that will be rebated to Massachusetts households.

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