

Sandi Woy-Hazelton and Toni Saldivar, "League Looks at Oxford Aggregation Program: City's effort takes a step toward renewable energy." *The Oxford Press*. 26 April 2015: A3.

The League of Women Voters has been advocating environmental protection for decades, consistently supporting legislation to preserve our nation's natural resources and to protect public health. Now as we celebrate Earth Day 2015, we believe the greatest environmental challenge of our time is climate change.

Our national position, taken after intense study and concurrence of all member Leagues in all 50 states, is as follows: to "support legislation that seeks to safeguard our country from the physical, economic and public health effects of climate change while also providing pathways to economic prosperity." In other words, the League accepts the scientific community's research and judgment that climate change is a real phenomenon that requires adaptation in our lifetimes, as supported by the research of the International Panel on Climate Change. Furthermore, the League advocates adherence to the Precautionary Principle: the willingness to take action in advance of verifiable proof given the belief that delay will harm future generations.

One way to take action is to "de-carbonize" our electricity. This means reducing the amount of carbon pumped into the atmosphere by power-producing facilities and using more power from electricity produced by solar, wind, and water. This approach is key to achieving lower levels of greenhouse gases. This fall in Paris, world leaders at the Climate Summit are hoping states will adopt the goal of achieving 90% use of de-carbonized, renewable energy by 2100.

The City of Oxford has taken an important step in this direction. Last November, residents voted that the City implement a plan to purchase electricity as an aggregate for lower rates and cleaner energy. That plan is now in place. If you live in the City of Oxford, your electric power can be 100% green/renewable energy at the low rate of 5.785 cents per kWh. All you have to do is enroll in the City of Oxford's Electric Aggregation Program, Option 1. You are already enrolled if you received a letter at the end of March from the City about this program and you did not opt out of it. If you did not receive this letter, you are not enrolled--yet. But you can be. Go to the City of Oxford website for instructions. Look for the article "Update on Oxford Electric Aggregation Program" with its link to "Frequently Asked Questions." <http://www.cityofoxford.org/news/2015/03/update-oxford-electric-aggregation-program> By choosing Option #1, you will be joining millions of Americans committed to caring for our environment and for our future by using clean energy. **Please note:** If your current source of electricity has a cancellation fee and you want to wait until that plan is up for renewal so that you can leave it without penalty, you can join the City of Oxford Aggregation Program at that later time.