

Limit Fossil Fuels; Recycle Sewage

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the third of four articles excerpted from "Planning and the Environment," by the Wayne County Planning Commission, telling what county and local governments can do to preserve the environment. This article deals with fossil fuels and recycling of water.

Energy sources which reduce and eventually eliminate dependence on fossil fuels must be encouraged.

This is essential not only from the pollution prevention objective, but to be prepared for the end of the economically

feasible availability of such fuels and to conserve them as a source of chemicals. Extensive research on this issue is proceeding.

The county can participate in furthering this objective by declaring its support for measures that lead toward conserving the use of power and of fossil fuels.

Emphasis should always be on thoroughly tested solutions that do not merely provide balancing trade-offs with no net gain. For example, the solution to automobile exhaust pollution is a non-polluting vehicle, not depriving the

public of the advantages of individual mobility by banning the automobile.

PROGRAMS throughout the county that seek to reduce the individual's mobility should be opposed but, based on a reasonable lead time schedule such as 10 to 20 years, rigid emission pollution prohibition should be imposed on all vehicles by ordinances.

The enforcement schedules of state and federal programs and the energetic efforts of local enforcement are reasonably tight with respect to cleaning the air.

As to the more fundamental issue of achieving both clean and long term fuels, a lead time of greater length is essential to develop the

technology. A target year for the conversion to such energy sources could be 2000. In the meantime, some limitation on the increase in the use of fossil fuels would be in order.

Similarly, air pollution control measures should be far-sighted and tend toward basically permanent as well as clean processes. The county could incorporate in its

pollution control efforts encouragement on a reasonable time schedule, of conversion to fusion or other methods of non-dangerous nuclear power generation; and support for educational measures to assist the general public in understanding the issues involved.

HISTORICALLY, our society has relied on the "out of sight-out of mind" approach in dealing with many problems of urbanization. How we use water resources is a prime example.

Sewage-treated or not-is dumped in the stream to be carried out of sight. The water table is lowered by wells drawing from it, without any effort to recharge the level. It is easy to deepen the well, so nothing else is done because the risk of exhausting the supply is not visible.

Drains and flood control efforts are often designed to get all the water away as fast as possible, rather than channeling it into areas where it can recharge the water table and serve recreation or other purpose in the meantime.

THE WATER into which we dump sewage can move it, but has limited capacity to process it.

Yet the land has such a capacity. Some of the polluting elements of sewage are the desirable elements of fertilizers — phosphates, nitrates, etc. There are examples here in Michigan of deal-

ing with treated sewage by using it for irrigation, then removing sewage and adding soil fertility at the same time. When the Wayne County soil study is completed, the county can adopt the principle of recycling water into the aquifer when soil and existing water tables will benefit.

Areas not now sewered may go to land uses that do not require sewers, in accordance with a plan developed jointly with local units. Agriculture, recreation and large lot housing are examples of such uses. Some Drain Commission impoundment plans and the flood control measures of the Road Commission parks and forestry division, are commendable steps consistent with this proposal.

The county might consider water pollution regulations based on the principle that industrial or commercial uses of raw water be limited to processing, cooling, heating, or chemically changing within the user's property, and that the effluent, when it leaves the property, be required to have the same composition, temperature and "quality" as it had at the point of entry.

This would mean that the chemicals which constitute industrial wastes would be retrieved — and often would have marketable value — and that the user downstream need not pay the price — monetary or otherwise — for the upstream user's pollution. A 10 or 20 year lead time might be allowed for adjustments to this type of requirement.

Detroit Agrees To Sell Maybury Site To State

The 885-acre Maybury Sanatorium site has been sold to the state of Michigan, following action taken last week by the Detroit Common Council.

The buildings and grounds which housed tuberculosis rehabilitation facilities until 1969, had been empty.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

had offered \$3 million for the special appeal to families of low income, to the handicapped and senior citizens, and to the urban child with little knowledge of the countryside.

Larry Miller, chief planner for the DNR notes that developmental plans are still in the preliminary stage. But among the things under strong consideration are:

- A family camping area where camping gear could be rented to those who normally can't afford a full range of equipment.
- A farm where urban families could see farm equipment and animals.
- Recreational golf, with special areas for the non-golfers.
- Outdoor recreational areas for athletic fields, courts and picnic grounds.
- An indoor fieldhouse with meeting rooms and perhaps even a swimming pool.

The DNR tentatively plans a new kind of park, with emphasis on conservation and recreation education with

special appeal to families of low income, to the handicapped and senior citizens, and to the urban child with little knowledge of the countryside.

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Also, plans would include nature trails and areas for winter sports such as sledding and ice skating.



BILL COSBY, in Detroit at the Fisher Theater, surprised a local car dealer Jerry Agrima (right) when he called and ordered a European car from him by phone, sight unseen. Agrima, sales manager for Erhard Motor Sales of 32715 Grand River, Farmington, shows the famous entertainer how the instruments on the automobile, a BMW Bavaria, operate. (Observer photo).

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No Jury Duty Seen At 18 Despite Change

Even if the age of majority is lowered to 18 in Michigan, it looks doubtful whether 18, 19 and 20-year-olds will be eligible for jury duty.

In Michigan the minimum age for jury duty is now at 21 but persons must also own property to qualify for jury duty. The lists for jurors are taken from both the tax rolls and the voters registration lists.

Vermont recently lowered its age of majority to 18 for voting, making legal contracts, marrying without parental consent, and purchasing alcoholic beverages. However, the recently passed bill will not permit the youths to serve on a jury because they are prohibited from doing so by a court rule.

The lowered age also will permit 18, 19, and 20-year-olds to buy land and obtain mortgages but they cannot hold a real estate broker's license because of a land sales law.

Kentucky is the only other state that has lowered the age of majority to 18. But in Kentucky the legal age for purchasing alcoholic beverages is still at 21.

Michigan's bill to lower the age of majority was recently reported out of the Senate Judiciary Committee for debate on the Senate floor.

IT HAD PASSED the House in May by a 78-30 vote after an amendment to keep the legal drinking age and the age for placing bets at 21 was defeated.

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