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2018_10_19 REAP 2nd Draft Public Comments_Greenhouse/Hot House Efficiency Improvements

Per suggestions of the CEC public advisor's October 19th, 2018 email, I have a second suggestion for the 2nd Draft of the REAP program's solicitation for granting agricultural renewable energy: Greenhouse building improvements.

Greenhouses and interior plant growing spaces are known as "energy hogs." So much so, that local electric utilities have sometimes found illegal plant growing operations by the customer's unusually high electrical bill. This seems due because of lighting, temperature regulation and sometimes hydroponic processes. Also, plants require distinct lighting, similar to most biological creatures.

I visited greenhouses at a local university recently. There were two types - old fashioned style greenhouses, which maybe the majority of the operations - and a more modern computer regulated facility. I was told by an expert staff member that what she envisions as a "dream" greenhouse would include partial ground submersion, to alleviate some of the heating and cooling requirements needed. If funds could be made available in a distinct grant language way for that type of energy efficient greenhouse, REAP might have university and other stakeholder interest. No guarantees, but it did seem like a logical idea for less earthquake prone, drier regions of California.

Also, understanding that California changed the legal situation of marijuana might entice some unusual participation in energy efficient greenhouse grant applications. Molding the REAP document to accept greenhouse parties (pun intended though I have never known one), might be useful in California Energy conservation.

Sincerely,

Claire Warshaw