

Megan Nelson ~ Palmer Township ~ Sherburne County

The technological advances of energy sources in the past several decades has drastically changed humanity. Although on a small scale, individuals could feel frustrated by changes in technology, as a whole, these advancements are bettering the world around us. Because these changes are happening fairly quickly, citizens can often feel overwhelmed and, therefore, reject ideas before giving them any thought. It is necessary for us to dispose of the negative stigma that comes along with change, in order to advance our future.

The most important thing that townships can do to find the balance between implementing reliable energy sources and responding to the health, safety, economic, and environmental concerns of their community is by educating the public. If citizens are aware of and understand the changes that are going to be occurring in their communities before these changes actually take place, they are less likely to turn their cheeks on the new installations. Townships could send out letters to citizens that would provide information on the new energy projects. These letters would explain the importance of new innovations in energy technology and provide a date of when these projects are going to be taking place. Along with explanatory letters, townships could also provide meetings at town halls to discuss these projects. In these meetings, citizens can voice their opinions on these topics and state their concerns. This would allow them to have a voice in their communities and have their questions answered. If citizens feel that they are not heard, more problems will arise. Ensuring that there is open communication throughout the township will also make citizens feel more linked as a community and help the overall morale.

It is important to have a unified community. Along with that, it is also important to have new, renewable energy sources because they are incredibly important for a sustainable future.

Humans are polluting the earth and several health problems are resulting from emissions of power plants. Switching to safer energy sources, such as solar energy, will be better for the human race and the environment. The amount of solar radiation that the surface of the earth receives is 20,000 times more power than what is needed to supply the world with electricity. There is so much potential in solar energy; it makes sense that we harness it and take advantage of it. Solar energy does not pollute the earth and can actually reduce homeowners' overall electricity expenses. It is understandable, though, that citizens will be hesitant about welcoming solar energy into their communities because it is a change and individuals do not want to be inconvenienced. But humanity needs to come together as a whole and realize that our goal is to provide sustainability for the future.

Our world is constantly changing and improving, and that can be intimidating to many. If townships keep their residents informed on the projects that are coming to their areas, the communities will be more willing to welcome these changes.