

MEMORANDUM

August 26, 1991

TO: Eileen Ryan, Community Development Director
FR: David Konkle, Energy Coordinator *DK*
RE: Funding for Ecology Center

The Energy Commission discussed the issue of funding for the Ecology Center's Home Energy Works program at its August 15 meeting. It is our understanding that Councilmembers Peterson and Eckstein had asked for assistance in seeking additional funds for the program since funding had been cut from \$30,000 to \$11,973. Many in attendance were familiar with the program and agreed it was a good program. However, they did not see the reduction in funding as unreasonable.

The Home Energy Works program began a number of years ago as a "hands-on" alternative to the utility funded RCS audit program. The Ecology Center program helped demonstrate the effectiveness of delivering actual materials and services versus just a paper study. The demonstration was so successful that the utilities now offer nearly identical programs for their customers funded through the energy conservation surcharge on utility bills. Detroit Edison's "Residential Customer Fitness Audit" and MichCon's "Conservation Kit Audit" are nearly identical to the Home Energy Works program but on a much larger scale. It was the general feeling of those in attendance that the Home Energy Works program had succeeded in proving its worth and its service has now been taken over by the utilities.

It was suggested that if the Ecology Center still wishes to play a useful role in residential energy conservation perhaps they could operate as a referral agency, utilizing their well established local networks to help the utilities locate interested households. The Ecology Center could serve local citizens by keeping them informed on energy conservation issues along with services offered by the utilities or others. Or, as one person suggested, perhaps its time for the Ecology Center to utilize their creativity and move on to something new.

cc: Alfred A. Gatta
James Amin