



Where's Mayor Bloomberg's Energy Task Force?

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Crain's New York Business is running (behind a paywall) [an entry in its "Insider" column](#) that reminds us that Mayor Bloomberg's energy task force hasn't said much lately.

the mayor's special task force on energy policy has not issued a progress report in more than a year. Formed in July 2003, a month before the city's massive blackout, the task force is **supposed to look for ways to boost New York's electricity supply by 23% by 2008.**

Um, did they say *increase* our electricity supply? No wonder they haven't come up with anything. As a group of people who are concerned about our planet's energy future, I think we should list some ways that this might be possible.

One thing New York City has plenty of is [tides](#). Maybe we could use them to replace the power we generate by burning oil and natural gas! O.K., obviously I'm being facetious. I shouldn't be scoffing at tidal power, which could provide *some energy*, but nowhere near an equivalent amount of what we get from oil and natural gas.

The only way to effectly increase the energy supply increased is by decreasing demand. I wonder if Mayor Bloomberg's energy task force will come up with any of these suggestions:

- Encourage people to live in apartments not single-family houses.
- Use zoning to encourage high density development of housing and businesses along transit lines.
- Promote bicycling and carsharing services like Zipcar.
- Encourage the citizens to go to their houses of worship and say a solemn prayer of thanks to the New Yorkers of a century ago, who handed down to us a mass transportation system that will prove more useful in the coming century than most people now imagine. (That we haven't been able to expand it significantly in more than 50 years is a result of the intoxicating cheap energy age that is now, sadly, ending.)



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