



# National Energy Policy Issue Paper - Energy Conservation

NGSA believes a National Energy Policy should promote the conservation of our natural resources through voluntary market-based programs.

## **Conservation helps Consumers**

A national energy policy can promote conservation of our natural resources through promoting the use of energy efficient technology and to allow the consumer to make market-based, educated decisions that can save energy.

During times of tight supply, conservation can help address shortages. Conservation of resources is important in the short run to balance out differences in supply and demand and does not hinder economic growth. Conservation can facilitate the ability of industry to grow without the supply of energy being the limiting factor of economic growth. And in the long run, conservation allows non-renewable resources to be available for future generations.

NGSA believes that market based incentives are always preferable to government regulation. While a free market is the best mechanism for encouraging conservation, government interference in the energy market is a barrier to conservation. The federal government, however, plays an important role in educating consumers about conservation choices and promoting energy efficiency. Market-based programs that partner with industry to improve energy efficiency and conserve resources, including the Energy Star Program at the Environmental Protection Agency, bring energy choices to the consumer. These programs also serve an important role in educating the public and the business community on the economics of investing in energy efficient technology, thereby resulting in increased conservation.

## **NGSA Position on Conservation**

It is important for national energy legislation to make conservation a priority. Even though the US has an abundance of natural gas, it is nevertheless important to utilize natural gas wisely and prudently, so that future generations can also enjoy the benefits of this clean burning fuel. The NGSA supports legislation that: 1) conserves energy resources through the use of voluntary market-based energy efficiency programs, and 2) develops programs that educate consumers about conservation and improvements in energy efficiency.