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## **Using Less Power Must Come First**

While I agree with the general conclusions of the March 8 editorial "An energy blueprint," it is missing mention of a key solution: It is totally devoid of any discussion on energy efficiency, which is being called the "first fuel" by many experts, including Kateri Callahan, president of the Alliance to Save Energy.

While Jim Rogers of Duke Energy calls energy-efficiency the fifth fuel, which is an honor in its own right, many of us think that it is first because it is the option given the highest priority in both Wisconsin and California legislation on new energy sources.

In fact, California has stated that it will derive more than 50% of all new energy from energy-efficiency initiatives for the foreseeable future, and historically, California knows what it is talking about. It has kept energy consumption per capita steady for the past 30 years while the rest of the country has seen its consumption of electricity go up 50%.

Ultimately, Wisconsin needs to utilize energy-efficiency because as the Public Service Commission's new report states, it will affect "the timing and size of new power plants needed in the future."

In a carbon-constrained world, it is the cleanest, least-expensive energy resource we have.

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<http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=575410>