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I reviewed the draft scope for the 2013 State Energy Plan. It is a simple 7 page draft that summarizes the intent and generally says the right thing; however, next is the hard work of putting together the actual plan. What is more important than putting together the actual forthcoming plan will be to properly implement the plan as intended, ensuring the proper design, system selection, sizing and commissioning of all mechanical, thermal, electrical and renewable systems to realize the plan's intentions and reap its benefits. It is also important to ensure that we have well trained operators for all energy consuming systems and renewables to ensure energy savings and sustainability benefits are truly realized (instead of just nice ink on paper). Therefore, the plan must add clear implementation and verification clauses that address all of the above points to ensure energy efficiency targets are realized, and sustained, for many years to come. I specifically mention design, system selection/sizing, commissioning and trained operators as those are practical areas where I have personally witnessed numerous deficiencies in many areas in New York State, in both the private and public sectors, with lots of room for improvements. I also have some horror stories and examples of things that went wrong and were later corrected through proper commissioning of building mechanical, thermal and electrical systems that I can share if needed to emphasize the necessity of the suggested proactive approach. Please let me know if you have any questions. I look forward to a thorough 2013 State Energy plan, followed by robust implementation and efficient system operation for many years to come for the benefit of our beloved New York State.

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The draft scope for the 2013 State Energy Plan did not cover societal, educational, transformational and behavioral changes and how communities operate and work to reduce energy usage and attain other societal and transformational benefits. For example, such changes may include, but are not limited to: 1. Encouraging 4-day work weeks (i.e., closed Fridays). 2. Reducing and/or eliminating shopping mall Sunday schedules. 3. The above two items will not only reduce energy usage, but also allow and encourage families to spend more time together. This will have other societal and educational benefits, and could include a possible side-effect of less crime due to stronger family units. Suggested transformational activity changes may include, but are not limited to: 4. Increasing energy efficiency education and awareness through more community outreach and collaboration in all sectors of society. 5. For example, through better public education, kids could begin to understand the energy and environmental impacts of turning on a light bulb. Unfortunately, many of our younger generation are not fiscally responsible and are in unnecessary debt; therefore, we need to enhance our education to the community at large to increase not only their financial knowledge, but also include energy efficiency and environmental awareness via classes in all schools. Such an important educational component should become part of the curriculum. In addition, not just K-12 schools should be included, the education should be expanded to trade schools and other institutions of higher learning. 6. Seriously encourage car pooling and provide rewards and incentives for doing so. 7. The objective is to optimally change the existing mindset to one that is more responsible. If such soft/societal items and other potential benefits are not covered in the State Energy Plan; where else can this be covered to attain energy, educational, behavioral, transformational and societal benefits? Some one must take charge of such changes; therefore, we recommend their inclusion in the plan (as appropriate) to encourage adaptation of the above items. Obviously, more items can be added, but we just wanted to provide a few examples to get the discussion started.