



## **Changing habits, saving energy**

By: Liz Murray (published as a letter to the editor in the Thunder Bay Chronicle-Journal on August 12, 2006)

Ever since I saw Al Gore's movie, *An Inconvenient Truth*, I've been worried about the coming bad effects of global warming. Before I saw it, any energy conservation I did was intended to reduce my bills, but now I have two reasons: saving money (of course!) and not wanting to contribute to the trouble that that extra heat is beginning to cause. However, I believe that, crucially important as it is, what individuals do at home to conserve energy is not enough. We also need a gradual but real changeover in the way our energy is produced in the first place, and in the way our cars, trucks, and other transport run in the second place.

I would like to be able to plug something into my wall and know that my power sources (parts of our grid) are not contributing to things like the melting of mountain/glacier based fresh water supplies, drought, rising food prices, etc. I want to be able to plug in without that sinking feeling that what I'm doing will help make bad things happen somewhere in the world.

Similarly, I don't like thinking that the more I drive, the more carbon I emit. I don't like thinking that the products I buy are trucked here by pouring too much of it into the air. I know that engines and fuels that don't emit much carbon have already been developed. I think that they should be made available in new cars and trucks as a matter of course, and I wonder why that gradual changeover hasn't started yet.

I think that we consumers and voters have to conserve, but we also have to speak up—make a bit of a fuss in fact—for better power and transport. We have two reasons, saving our money, and making our conservation efforts actually work.