

16.4-1

This part addresses existing structures. What about new structures?

The approach (of requiring an energy audit) might not result in the desired saving of fossil fuels. Energy audits aren't standardized, nor do they make a precise statement about how much energy a building can or should use. Much is left to the judgment of the auditor. What's needed is a cap on energy consumption, much like how auto emission tests have caps on the amounts of pollutants that cars can release. A building's energy-cap could be in Btu/sq ft, Btu/bedroom, or Btu/occupant (and these could be converted to kWh/yr, or gallons of propane or oil per year).

16.6-4c

Why allow only one turbine per lot? What if the owner wants to install multiple turbines that are low and small (6'-diameter) like those at Logan Airport? Or what if the lot is large and turbines are placed far apart?

16.6-4d

Does this turbine-setback apply just to the distance to neighbors' structures, or does it also apply it to the applicant's structures?

16.6-6.5

Are lattice-type towers (like those of South Mountain and the High School turbines) being intentionally prohibited? If so, why?

16.12-1

Requiring a primary solar heater for pools and hot tubs won't automatically conserve fossil fuels. Solar heaters are frequently undersized, poorly installed, poorly maintained, and/or abandoned by owners. Thus they are worthless.

Instead of mandating solar heaters and not knowing how much fossil fuel might or might not be conserved, each building should be awarded an annual energy allotment – a quantity of Btu/yr (from a mix of electricity, propane, and/or oil) that will adequately provide them with the space heat, domestic water heat, light, and if they wish, pool and hot tub heat. The applicant then decides how they'll insulate their house, incorporate solar panels, etc., and thus get through each year with their (capped) energy allotment.

