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## **Governor backs energy conservation study**

Gov. Kenny Guinn on Wednesday announced he supports an energy conservation study that was conducted for Nevada by the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project.

The report identifies 14 policy options that could save \$5 billion over the next 15 years in Nevada, according to Guinn, SWEEP and the Nevada Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Task Force.

"The governor understands that this is the year of conservation," said Richard Burdette, the governor's energy adviser who requested the study.

While noting the report doesn't deal with gasoline, Burdette said it reviews problems for the Nevada climate and identifies policies that would increase energy conservation.

Expansion of energy conservation programs at electric and natural gas utilities are one of the top two priorities, said Howard Geller, executive director of SWEEP.

Other recommendations include adopting of energy conservation ordinances to upgrade energy efficiency of existing homes, increased funding for weatherizing homes of low-income residents and energy saving targets for state agencies.