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# Letter: Energy efficiency is key to avoiding future disasters

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To the Editor:

As the recent coal mine and oil disasters have shown, our dependence on fossil fuels has a significant negative cost -- not only on our environment, but on our health and economy as well.

Ohio must follow the lead of the University of North Carolina by moving away from coal and oil and move toward safe, clean, renewable energy sources. Ohio ranks fourth in the nation for dirty, polluting coal consumption. According to the U.S. Energy Information Agency and the Department of Energy, approximately 90 percent of Ohio's electricity is from coal, compared to 50 percent nationally and 40 percent globally.

One way to move away and reduce our coal consumption is through energy efficiency. For every \$1 spent on energy efficiency, we see a \$3 return in savings. So while renewable energy is very important for Ohio moving forward, energy efficiency is just as critical in reducing dirty coal consumption, saving taxpayers dollars and protecting our air and water.

Christian George