

Renewable and Alternative Energy Subcommittee

Initial Goals and Actions through August 28, 2009

for review by the Climate Change Task Force on September 17, 2009

SUBCOMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

To provide the Task Force with recommendations for effectively mitigating climate change through renewable and alternative energy policy and actions in the near-term and long-term, building on existing Broward policies and practices. To create model renewable and alternative energy policies and actions drawing on the best practices from cities and regions across the United States and around the world. The Subcommittee will recommend ways to foster equivalent and coordinate commitments and actions among businesses, communities, households and individuals to increase adoption of renewable and alternative energy technologies.

Energy Policy

Goal Statement: Broward County shall support the expansion of renewable and alternative energy sources.

Action: Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS)

Support state legislation which is consistent with the 2008 Florida Energy and Climate Change Action Plan to establish a 20% renewable portfolio standard for 2020

Additional Discussion: "Carve out" a certain percentage of RPS for distributive and solar energy as "Renewable Distributive"

Action: Legislative tax exemptions

Review consequences and consider lobbying to reverse a constitutional amendment to effectively re-instate alternative energy incentive of a tax credit including the exemption of the cost of the home improvement.

Action: Funding for Renewable Energy Projects

Create clean energy offset revenue by having a volunteer check box on property tax bill, car registration, or other billing instrument to pay for specific clean energy programs.

Action: Evaluate Bond-Funded Renewable Finance District

Evaluate development of a bond funded program that enables homeowners to pay back the cost of renewable power systems through a voluntary special assessment.

Biomass

Goal Statement: Broward County shall establish policies and administrative actions that reduce the disposal of municipal solid waste (MSW) in landfills and promotes full utilization of existing infrastructure for waste-to-energy conversion.

Action: Expand Waste to Energy Plant Intake

Work cooperatively to enter into interlocal agreements with five remaining cities to redirect up to an estimated 270,000 tons of municipal solid waste from landfills to local waste-to-energy plants, achieving 90% biomass conversion of MSW by 2012.

Action: Explore Landfill Gas to Energy

Require landfills to evaluate the cost effectiveness of landfill gas to energy conversion.

Additional Discussion: Set performance metrics.

Solar

Goal Statement: Broward County shall promote and support actions to increase the proportion of electricity generated by solar power from residential, commercial and municipal properties within Broward County's geographic boundaries.

Action: Permitting Solar Installation

Develop an incentive program within Building Code Services by June 2010 which waives permit fees for renewable and alternative energy installations through 2015.

Determine if permitting inhibits development of solar installations and work to remove barriers.

Action: Seek grant funding

Use available federal funding (e.g. Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant) to support curriculum development for a two-year pilot program to train students in installation of photovoltaic and thermal solar technology, permitting and engineering, with the final exam being an actual solar installation.

Action: Maximize incentive use in Broward County

Develop and implement an incentive awareness program to educate residents and commercial property owners on local, utility, state and federal renewable energy incentives.

Wind

Goal Statement: Broward County shall support actions to determine feasibility of generation of electricity by wind in coastal areas.

Action: Research and Monitoring

Open a request for statements of interest (SOI) on development of onshore and offshore wind installations.

Initiate wind studies in Broward County including adding meteorological stations to test wind speeds for distributed wind generation

Actions: Permitting wind projects

Determine if permitting inhibits development of onshore and offshore wind installations and work to remove barriers.

Work cooperatively with municipalities to unify and be consistent regarding permitting requirements for wind projects

Geothermal

Goal Statement: Broward County shall assess whether geothermal resources in the area are worth further investigation.

Actions: Explore the resource

Set a timeframe for the evaluation of geothermal resources.

Ocean Technology

Goal Statement: Broward County shall lead a regional pursuit to serve as a national center for ocean energy technology.

Actions: Support Local Research

Support the FAU Center for Ocean Energy Technology in pursuit of US DOE National Laboratory accreditation.

Consider land use issues related to bringing ocean transmission lines onshore in the long term plan

Additional Discussion: Identify specific actions to be taken in support of the FAU Center for Ocean Energy Technology