



North Country Council, Inc.

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**NCC Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee
Alternative and Renewable Energy Production Strategies
to support
Community and Regional Benefits**

I. New CEDS Energy Goal (subcommittee adoption 3-10-10, full committee 4-7-10)

- **The North Country Wisely Uses Its Alternative and Renewable Resource Base To Generate Energy And Heat For Community And Regional Economic Benefits.**
 - Rationale: The decline of the pulp and paper industry and higher energy costs (among other factors) have increased interest in alternative and renewable energy production. Our forest resource is one of our greatest competitive advantages, and the need to use that resource sustainably has recently been brought into focus by wood supply and availability studies. There is also a recognition that efficiency and other local economic benefits can be increased by capturing heat (i.e., cogeneration, district heating), and using a greater share of the energy locally to economize on transmission costs. Distribution and transmission costs are currently an issue. It is widely recognized that some existing regulations and policies may need to be reviewed and adapted.

II. New CEDS Energy Subcommittee Purpose (adopted January 2010)

- Sub-Committee Purpose: To solicit, develop and evaluate strategies that stimulate public and private alternative and renewable energy production and efficiency projects throughout the region.

III. Alternative and Renewable Energy Production Strategies (subcommittee adoption 3-10-10, full committee 4-7-10)

- Improve regional energy transmission to ensure capacity for future energy development projects that maximize community benefits by:
 - Providing local access to low cost heat and power
 - Incorporating community benefit agreements
 - Incorporating fiscal impact analyses
 - Providing capacity for sustainable new alternative and renewable energy projects
- Support development of alternative and renewable small and medium scale energy (heat, cooling and electricity) production facilities (less than approximately 25 MW) which maximize community benefit and incorporate, to the extent possible, the following practices:
 - Co-location, cogeneration, combined heat and power (CHP) and other forms of thermal utilization to maximize efficiency
 - Locating generating capacity close to demand
 - Moderation of energy cost spikes with a non-grid alternative production capacity
 - Reduction of transmission losses
 - Incorporation of small and medium scale systems (such as heat pumps, CHP, hydro, wind, bio-energy, geothermal and solar).
 - Sustainable utilization of forest biomass resources
- Support the development of new large-scale renewable and alternative energy projects (including wind, solar, natural gas, methane, biomass, geothermal and others) which:
 - Permits local access to low cost heat and power
 - Co-locates with industry and create jobs
 - Incorporates community benefit agreements
 - Have positive fiscal impacts
 - Are consistent with
 - host community and regional development goals
 - sustainable resource use and
 - environmental stewardship standards
- Recover and use methane gas from landfills, wastewater treatment plants (WWTP), sewage systems, and agricultural operations and encourage:
 - On-site power, heat, steam etc...
 - Co-location of industry
- Expand biomass heat production from thermal energy sources for the region increasing community benefits by :
 - Adhering to sustainable utilization of forest and farm biomass resources
 - Increasing use of under-utilized biomass resource streams
 - Providing low-cost access to heat
 - Creating local jobs and other economic development opportunities by substituting a local renewable resource for imported oil.

