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<b>Adirondack Park Agency Policy, Procedures &amp; Guidance</b>	<b>Agency-7</b>
<b>Topic: Policy on Renewable Energy Production and Energy Supply</b>	
<b>/s/ Karen Feldman Acting Chair</b>	<b>Date: ?</b>

## **I. Purpose**

Wise use of energy resources and development of renewable energy resources offer an opportunity at a local and Park level to contribute to the reduction of global atmospheric carbon levels and climate change. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to the Agency and others within the Adirondack Park regarding the Adirondack Park Agency's exercise of its powers, duties and responsibilities under the Adirondack Park Agency Act, the Freshwater Wetlands Act, and the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System Act regarding renewable energy production.

## **II. Background**

There is considerable public and private concern about energy supply, energy use and conservation, climate change, burning of fossil fuels, acid rain and airborne pollutants, and energy costs. Current and future development in the Park must be viewed as having a cumulative effect on the quality of Park resources and on the need for reliable and affordable energy supplies. The State of New York has initiated a number of important efforts to address climate change, state energy needs, energy use, energy

efficiency, sustainable communities and smart growth. These efforts include, but are not limited to:

1. The 2017 announcement by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo that New York had joined the United States Climate Alliance in collaboration with other states to uphold the Paris Climate Agreement.
2. The 2017 initiative by New York State to assess agency vulnerability to climate change and to assist agency efforts to train staff and take needed actions to reduce the impacts of climate change.
3. The 2015 New York State Energy Plan that coordinates State agencies and authorities that involve energy to advance the 2014 Reforming the Energy Vision agenda, initiates regulatory reform to integrate clean energy into the power grid, redesigns programs to foster private capital, and deploys innovative energy solutions across the State's facilities and operations.
4. The Agency has participated in a Public Service Commission review of new power facilities exempt from APA Act permitting and in Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and federal hydropower licensing reviews.
5. The Agency, in cooperation with NYSDEC and NYS Police, is participating in the construction of a wood biomass facility as an alternative energy source to heat the three agencies' Ray Brook facilities.
6. The Agency coordinates regularly with NYSDEC, NYSERDA, NYPA, DPS, and NYSDOT to better understand each other's regulatory roles and responsibilities relative to electrical power transmission and distribution systems, and to aesthetic and reliability concerns within highway and utility rights-of-ways.

The Adirondack Park Agency Act recognizes the need to preserve the Park's resources and open space character while allowing for growth and service areas, employment, and a strong economic base. The Agency has a responsibility to address important existing and emerging local and regional issues such as renewable energy.

The Agency provides planning assistance to Park communities and reviews proposals for new residential, commercial, major public utility, and industrial activities.

### **III. Policy on Renewable Energy Production, Supply, and Conservation**

#### **A. General Policy**

The policy is intended to ensure that the Agency:

- Integrates concerns for renewable energy production and energy conservation into its Park planning, public education, and project review functions;
- Protects Park resources while recognizing that renewable energy production and energy conservation is critical to viable, sustainable human communities within the Park and in a global context; and
- Incorporates energy conservation measures into its facilities, fleet management, and operations.

## B. Concerns for Energy Supply and Conservation

### 1. Park Planning

The Agency will provide leadership and participation in State-sponsored initiatives and programs to promote renewable energy production, sustainable development, and energy conservation in the Adirondack Park. The Agency supports State and federal programs addressing climate change.

The Agency encourages the development of alternative and renewable energy sources while recognizing the need to balance protection of natural, scenic, aesthetic, ecological, wildlife, historic, recreational, and open space resources of the Park.

### 2. Public Education

The Agency serves as a forum for discussion of energy-related issues within the Park by:

- Using its programs and activities to address such issues as renewable energy production, energy conservation, climate change, and sustainable communities; and
- Posting information and providing links to pertinent information online, including State-sponsored energy programs, public and private sources of technical and financial assistance, and similar content.

### 3. Project Review

When reviewing applications for new or expanded energy facilities, including solar, wind, and other power generating sources, and new or relocated energy transmission or distribution systems, the Agency will assess need, siting, and other issues. The Agency

also assesses the potential impacts that any proposed land use and development may have on Park resources.

The Agency's Energy Guidance is available in the Development in the Adirondack Park Guidelines available at [www.apa.ny.gov](http://www.apa.ny.gov).

#### 4. Agency Energy Conservation and Efficiency Measures

The Agency administration continuously evaluates all of its facilities, fleet management, and operations for opportunities to improve energy conservation and efficiency and implements improvements at the earliest opportunity within Agency budget constraints. The Agency also pursues other sources of state and federal funding in order to further this effort.

#### IV. Adoption

The Adirondack Park Agency has reviewed and adopted this policy effective DATE.

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Karen Feldman  
Acting Chair

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Date