

Northwest Public Power Association (NWPPA)
Western Energy Resource Committee (WERC)
Talking Points - September 2007

Support for Research & Development

Key Messages:

To ALL: Thank the Governors for their unified, bipartisan support of federal efforts to fund research and development of innovative renewable energy technologies (See WGA Policy Resolution 07-16 – Transitioning the West to Clean Energy and Energy Security).

NWPPA has [Resolutions 19-06 and 07-11](#) that support the Renewable Energy Production Incentive (REPI) Program and new technology development to mitigate climate change.

WGA Positions:

1. In the WGA Policy Resolution 07-16 (policy statements #1 and #2) the Western Governors' urge increased federal funding for research and development of new innovative renewable technologies and improvements to existing technologies.
2. The Resolution states: "Western Governors believe that improving the economic viability of renewable resources is critical to continued expansion in the west. Federal efforts toward the funding of research and development of innovative technologies will help reduce the cost of developing solar, wind, geothermal and biomass projects."

NWPPA Positions:

1. NWPPA supports federal investment in renewable energy research and development. To facilitate innovation, NWPPA has encouraged Congress to support two programs that are of direct benefit to public power: the Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREBs) and Renewable Energy Production Incentive (REPI) Programs.
2. NWPPA supports the REPI program to encourage the development and investment in renewable energy by public power. NWPPA urges Congress to fully fund the program, which has historically been woefully under-funded, so that incentive payments are available to all eligible projects.
3. Because the REPI program relies on yearly appropriations, the CREB program was created for public power systems to try to provide parity with the investor-owned utilities' Production Tax Credit (PTC), as public power is unable to take advantage of federal tax credits. NWPPA supports efforts that would provide permanent, comparable tax incentives for consumer-owned utilities, as those received by IOUs, to meet the needs and demands of its customers in providing renewable resources.
4. NWPPA's climate change resolution (07-11) has a principle to "Include additional and expanded federal support for research, development and deployment of cost-effective technologies for a variety of low- and zero-carbon emitting technologies, including renewable technologies such as hydropower, tidal, wave, geothermal, solar, biomass and wind, as well as technologies to reduce, capture, transform, transport or sequester greenhouse gases from emission sources throughout the national economy."

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WGA Management Directive:

WGA's Policy Resolution 07-16 includes a series of management directives.

Directive #8 – “The Western Governors direct the WGA staff to conduct a feasibility workshop to determine the most effective way to leverage federal funds to research and develop innovative technologies toward a goal of reducing the cost to develop solar, wind, geothermal, bio-fuel and biomass projects in the West.”

- NWPPA member utilities are investing in and working with developers in deploying these renewable technologies and can be identified to help contribute to this workshop.