

## 2008 Clean Energy Legislation Summary

### Energy Efficiency Policies

#### **HB 106 S01, Clean Air and Efficient Vehicle Tax Incentives**

House Sponsor: Rep. Roz McGee (D) Dist. 28  
Senate Sponsor: Sen. Greg Bell (R) Dist. 22

**Status: PASSED – This bill was brought forward from the 2007 Session and modified to accommodate stakeholder concerns.**

Provides a tax credit for highly efficient clean vehicles and vehicle conversions. With the passage of HB106S01 a tax credit, ranging from \$750 to \$2,500, will be available for the purchase of clean and efficient vehicles, or the conversion of a vehicle to run on clean fuel such as natural gas. The bill also creates a natural gas fuel tax and eliminates the fee for the Clean Special Fuel Certificate.

#### **HB 198 S01, State Agency Energy Savings**

House Sponsor: Rep. Fred Hunsaker (R) Dist. 4  
Senate Sponsor: Sen. Scott Jenkins (R) Dist. 20

**Status: PASSED – This bill received near unanimous support in the House and Senate.**

This bill provides incentives to state agencies that undertake energy efficiency projects and creates a revolving loan fund to lend monies to state agencies to finance energy efficiency measures.

#### **HB 199, Tax Credits for Energy Efficient Residences**

House Sponsor: Rep. Fred Hunsaker (R) Dist. 4

**Status: FAILED – Despite support from numerous stakeholders, this policy did not receive a Committee hearing.**

This policy was designed encourage highly efficient, above code new residential construction and home retrofits by providing tax credits to home builders and home builders. The proposed incentives were modeled to compliment local utility energy efficiency incentive programs.

### Renewable Energy Policies

#### **SB 84 S01, Net Metering Programs**

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Kevin VanTassell (R) Dist. 26  
House Sponsor: Rep. Roger Barrus (R) Dist. 18

**Status: PASSED – This bill passed unanimously in both houses.**

Raises the allowable project size to 2 MW (from 25 kW) facilitating commercial-scale renewable energy projects. It removes barriers to distributed renewable energy and cogeneration and encourage more residential customers to install renewable energy systems. This bill defers a number of key decisions to the appropriate governing authority (i.e. the Public Service Commission for investor-owned utilities, and the Board of Directors for rural electric co-operatives), allowing for further public input in the rule-making process. **This provides an important opportunity for public input on key decisions.**

#### **SB 202 S01, Energy Resource and Carbon Emission Reduction Initiative**

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Curtis Bramble (R) Dist. 16  
House Sponsor: Rep. David Clark (R) Dist. 74

**Status: PASSED – This bill passed unanimously in both houses following numerous negotiations to address stakeholder concerns.**

This policy requires that 20% of an electrical corporation's or a municipal electric utility's adjusted retail electric sales in the year 2025 come from renewable energy resources, if the renewable resources are determined to be "cost effective" after consideration of the following: long-term and short-term impacts; risk; reliability; financial impacts on the affected electrical utility; and other factors.

- The retail sales are adjusted by subtracting the non-carbon sources of energy and future carbon sequestration from the total retail sales. The 20% target would then apply to the "carbon" component of the utility's portfolio.

The policy also requires:

- Plans and reports concerning an electrical corporation's or municipal electric utility's progress in acquiring renewable energy.
- The Utah Geological Survey to make rules concerning carbon capture and geological storage of captured carbon emissions.

## **HB 201, Solar Energy Generation Tax Credit**

House Sponsor: Rep. Brad Last (R) Dist. 71  
Senate Sponsor: Sen. John Hickman (R) Dist. 29

**Status: PASSED – This bill received near unanimous support in Committee and the House Floor, it was then rolled into HB 359 S03.**

This bill creates a tax credit for individuals who invest in utility-scale solar projects that are developed and owned by political subdivisions, e.g. a city or town. The non-refundable income tax credit would be equal to 25% of the cost of the investment in a solar system, up to \$2,000. This policy would become retroactively effective starting January 1, 2008.

## **SB 173, Renewable Energy Provisions**

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Scott McCoy (D) Dist. 2

**Status: FAILED – Did not pass out of the Senate Workforce Services and Community and Economic Development.**

This bill would have created a strong Renewable Portfolio Standard of 25% of Utah's electricity from renewable resources by 2025 for electrical corporations and municipal utilities, with interim targets leading up the end goal. The bill included a solar requirement that at least 4% of the qualifying electricity to meet the RPS comes from solar electric generation technologies, and at least 2% of electricity sold to its retail electricity customers come from solar electric generation technologies in 2020 and every year thereafter.

## **SB 169, Renewable Energy Development Zones Task Force**

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Dennis E. Stowell (R) Dist. 28

**Status: FAILED – Passed unanimously out of Committee and was circled while on the Senate Third Reading Calendar.**

This policy would have established a Task Force to identify potential renewable energy generation development areas and provide supporting analysis and recommend policy options to facilitate (continued) renewable energy development. The bill also proposed to appropriate funds to study the

establishment of a training center for alternative energy technologies. **This task force will likely go forward without legislation.**

## **Related Energy Policies**

### **HB 146, School Bus Amendments**

House Sponsor: Rep. Christine Johnson (D) Dist. 25  
Senate Sponsor: Rep. Mike Dmitrich (D) Dist. 27

**Status: PASSED**

This bill creates a Clean School Bus Grant Program, which allocates matching funds for grants awarded by the US EPA to local school districts for the purchase or retrofit of clean school buses, and places restrictions on idling school buses near schools.

### **HB 103, Use of State Alternative Fuel Network**

House Sponsor: Rep. Fred Hunsaker (R) Dist. 4,  
Senate Sponsor: Sen. Carlene Walker (R) Dist. 8

**Status: PASSED**

This policy makes provisions to allow certain private individuals and entities to purchase compressed natural gas through the state's fuel network under certain circumstances.

### **HB 414, Recycling Amendments**

House Sponsor: Rep. Tim Cosgrove (D) Dist. 44

**Status: FAILED – Passed unanimously out of Committee and was then “circled” on the House Third Reading Calendar.**

This would have established that state entities (including state agencies and schools) participate in a single stream recycling program.

**For more information or to get involved:**

**[www.utahcleanenergy.org](http://www.utahcleanenergy.org)**