

## February 21, 2011 STF ENERGY Work Group Summary

The Energy Recommendation Work Group met Feb 21, 2011. Sustainability task force members were asked to volunteer for the workgroup.

Attendees

**Task Force members:**

Emily Barret  
Kevin Cochran  
Steve Cole  
Wynne Coleman  
Sig Hutchinson  
Glenn Thomas  
Michael Sanera

**Staff:**

**WECO:**  
Patrick Beggs  
Christy Perrin  
  
**Wake County:**  
Matt Roylance

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**Meeting Objective:** Provide feedback on the Energy logic model draft strategies. This feedback will be used to develop a further draft that will go to full Sustainability Task Force

**Meeting process note: Silence does not mean assent.**

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Michael Sanera provided handouts which can be found on the project blog:  
<http://wecowake.wordpress.com/2011/02/28/handouts-from-energy-meeting/>

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The 2009-2010 [regional Reality Check](#) exercise came up with 3 guiding principles. These have been adopted by Wake County.

- Transit
- Vibrant city centers
- Sustained green space

The reality check exercise summary and principles can be found on the project blog;  
<http://wecowake.wordpress.com/2011/02/28/reality-check-summary-and-principles/>

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***Participants reviewed the long term goals of the [Feb 18 draft energy logic model](#).***

- 1) Per capita greenhouse gas emissions from Wake County are reduced.
- 2) Minimize adverse impacts from fuel and energy production and consumption on water, land, and air.
- 3) Businesses with low impacts to the environment contribute to the economic vitality of Wake County.
- 4) Citizens are independent of foreign fuel sources.

Need to include fleet management in the logic model. Need to separate fleet from transportation since they are two different types of consumers of fuel and emitters of greenhouse gases. Add fleet management as an objective.

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The group discussed the need to control emissions from the Wake County's fleet management. The U.S. General Services Administration has set a goal to reduce Scope 1& 2 emissions of federal buildings and motor fleet by 28% of 2008 levels by 2020. (<http://www.gsa.gov/portal/category/100567>) The scopes refer to an organization's levels of control:

Scope 1: yourself/ direct emissions

Scope 2: your suppliers/contractors' emissions

Scope 3: secondary suppliers' emissions

Wake County needs to think about how they can specifically reduce emissions. The County has an opportunity to require contractors use more sustainable practices (reduced emissions) when requests for bids for services or supplies are issued, or when contracts are up for renewal.

### Goal 1.

#### **Per capita greenhouse gas emissions from Wake County are reduced.**

I have a problem with the word reduce – it doesn't say how much.

We need to identify the problem first, and then identify solutions.

Need to use rigorous cost study to identify the least cost solution for each strategy.

Greenhouse gases are being substituted for temperature.

We need to propose the repeal of Senate Bill 3, which charges poor people more for electricity.

Procurement of electronic products and services should be energy star rated, although products not evaluated by energy star could also be efficient.

Greenhouse gas emissions vs. temperature. This is written as though there is a correlation - there isn't, so it should be written as temperature. Should we revise it to include temperature? Will that have the impact required? No it won't. Need to eliminate it.

There is nothing about temperature in goals. I think air quality is important. Keep it as written

Given the commissioners purpose behind the task force, we may want to re-word it to "per capita energy consumption". Efficiency lowers energy use, saves money, and reduces pollution.

Greenhouse gas is a recognized pollutant source. Temperature is one byproduct of the pollutant.

#### **Possible goal: Ozone and particulate matter should be reduced.**

NOx is a pollutant that impacts us here, we will soon be in non- attainment in this area, which will impact federal funds.

Reduce energy consumption to reduce pollutants (such as NOx, CO2)

If we are talking about pollution, then talk about it. CO2 is not a pollutant, it is about global warming.

Support energy consumption that is most effective in reducing or eliminating pollution. There are other sources of information beside the EPA can be used. We need to support consumers in what they need to do. Triangle air awareness website has info

As far as not being in attainment for ozone - the EPA lowered the standard - so that's why we will be out of attainment. John Locke Foundation has reports that say we met past standards.

### **Objectives B and C:**

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- (B) Residential, commercial, industrial and public buildings are more energy efficient (needs metrics)**
- (C) Schools and public buildings serve as models for sustainable design and energy efficiency (needs a metric)**

The state energy code has specific goals and standards already in place for public buildings (ASHRA 2004 standards baseline study of energy consumption- 2004 to current )

We don't need to approve an existing law

We could ask residential, commercial and industrial to meet the public standard.

Big energy users should be given incentives

Whenever existing bldgs are renovated they would be made efficient

Were cost studies done? Yes

Several energy efficient schools use more energy - may be 1 in NC.

We have to separate commissioned vs. operated. For example LEED commissioned buildings are not always operated efficiently. They need to be operated energy efficiently. Education of the operation and maintenance crew, owners, and occupants is required. Owners want to keep their tenants comfortable, for example. Most studies are only 1 year post construction.

**Support the commissioning of building so they are built to the design.**

**Support and fund training of maintenance and facility staff so buildings are operated efficiently.**

**Delete "private" from B and C.**

*The group discussed strategies 1-6 from the logic model.*

### **Strategy 1: Support NC Renewable Portfolio Standard**

Change support to lobby to repeal

Strengthen the SB3 to 20%

### **Strategy 2: Support development of Smart Grid infrastructure**

Many websites have concerns about privacy violations such as identity theft, home invasions, tracking behaviors... can we alter this in some way to add privacy concerns.

The key is to have the user maintain control of how information is collected. We will try to arrange a tour of the smart grid research center at NCSU for our next meeting.

Currently, the smart grid association says there is not a privacy/safeguard standard yet, but expects there will be a protocol, just like for banking online. Smart grid will not happen without this security, and security is very cost effective.

Will they be able to shut off an individual's electricity? We already have that ability, the energy company sends someone to your meter and shuts it off, but it would be done by computer with smart grid technology in place.

We have smart grid companies in the triangle. We should support the infrastructure so it can be used as a leverage tool to bring more businesses here.

Smart meters in Cary have been controversial. The consumer needs total control.

They do this now, it's pretty standard information that is already out there.

The concerns are reasonable and from different groups. This opens a door and it can snowball into total control. Freedom needs to be balanced with progress.

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Smart grid does not equal efficiency, but it does change behavior. People use 8-16% less energy if they are aware of its use on a continual basis. We should work in some language about behavior/awareness.

### **Strategy 3: Develop or support charging stations for electric cars**

Add "as long as not taxpayer or rate payer subsidies are included"

We subsidize other things all the time, though.

Were there subsidies for gas stations years ago?

New strategy suggestion – eliminate all subsidies for E production and use.

Benefit of electric car charging infrastructure is less pollution due to night charging.

Regionally, it is an area for excitement and marketing for in-migration.

Back to smart grid – it helps change water behavior use also.

We can't separate smart grid from electric vehicles due to the back and forth nature of the grid.

One way to think about electric cars: 1 car in a family is electric, not all cars. Diversifying – use if for local use (could be reflected in strategy)

### **Strategy 4: Support the development and use of renewable energies (solar, wind, geo thermal, methane)**

Add "as long as taxpayers and rate payers don't pay subsidies"

We don't know what the next best energy is so we shouldn't waste money without knowing... look at hydrogen fuel cell cars.

But we do and have supplied incentives and subsidies for gas and oil, so new energy sources need to be subsidized.

The free market creates the demand for energy.

Do you want more language than just support?

Wake County has no strategy for this except looking at efficiency in its own buildings.

### **Strategy 5: Support subsidies to attract energy-related technologies.**

Politicians are bad at picking winners and losers in private sectors. I am against this.

Proposal: Support economic development opportunities for high tech companies.

There is some support among state wide county commissioners to stop economic development incentives coming from counties. Some want a law that does not allow counties to do this.

### **Strategy 6: Explore and develop clean energies (such as nuclear) while assessing public health costs.**

What about "promote" instead of "explore and develop"?

What does clean energy mean?

### **Objectives**

**(D) Citizens, businesses, and organizations have access to multiple sources of affordable energy (needs a metric)**

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### **(E) Businesses and industries learn about Wake County's Environmental Stewardship Agenda and results**

Objectives D and E are mushy. They need to be specific, such as, do a study.

It's hard to be crystal clear and specific without knowing exactly what is needed, but it seems we need to do something ,

This goes back to water conversation and how using pricing will handle all water supply problems.

There are deregulated states for energy consumption - should we lobby for deregulation?