

Comments on Objectives from 1st draft of Energy Logic Model Jan 20 draft

A first draft energy logic model was distributed. Participants were asked to write comments noting the letter of the objective. This document is available on the project website under the documents heading: www.ncsu.edu/weco/wake

The Jan 20 Energy Logic Model is available on the website under the documents heading.

Participants were asked to consider objectives using the SMART mnemonic:

Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Results oriented, Time bound

A. Local governments have established renewable energy tools.

- the term tools is vague
- local governments have established stated renewable and efficiency goals
- by when? How? Not SMART
- What is a renewable energy? Is this a way to force others to develop or use renewable energy? Or is it finance of renewable energy for the local government? This needs clarifying.
- don't understand

B. The community will better understand energy consumption and options.

- hard to measure
- Good!
- something about reduction/education
- How can this be measured? Survey? Checking energy bills? Not sure how this is SMART. Maybe - provide educational opportunities on energy consumption to the community within next 6 months.
- The citizens of Wake County will be educated to better understand energy consumption and options.
-

C. Homes are energy efficient.

- not specific – more efficient maybe the way to go
- Redundant with D
- How much can Wake County influence this? Isn't the building code established as the state level? (same goes for D)
- Goes with B
- Most new homes are energy efficient and new energy code come and make all energy efficient.
- All new home construction will meet Healthy Home/Energy Star .. standards beginning in 2015.

D. Commercial, industrial, and public buildings are energy efficient

- not specific – more efficient maybe the way to go
- Good ! Add residential to mix
- All new commercial buildings built are either LEED accredited or built under the Triangle J Council of Government High Performance Building Standards Beginning Jan 1, 2015.
- Include Presidential Energy Use Models and codes similar to those regulated by the department of insurance in building. Codes to reach a minimum 20% reduction in energy usage based on 2004 model standards.
- ... are more energy efficient than they were in 2005 by 2015.
- building code will take care of this
- Good to accomplish D, may need to change building code requirements which could have effect of making buildings more costly to construct. Wake County can lead the way by imposing a higher standard on itself. (applies to E too)
-

E. Wake County facilities, including schools, are energy efficient

- not specific – more efficient maybe the way to go
- Redundant to D
- On energy efficient buildings: a large % of structures in Wake County are already built, so retrofit activities for residential and commercial buildings would be more beneficial than subsidies/money for new 'green' buildings.
- State & local government buildings must already comply.
- Only Wake County government facilities or municipalities in Wake County (their buildings are energy efficient...) (What about Apex, Raleigh, Cary, Wake Forest, Fuquay-Varina, etc.)
- This seems like a SMART objective to me. Like it!
- Specific, for example ...are more energy efficient than they were in 2005 by 2020.
- Why only Wake County? maybe it should read 'public facilities'

F. A higher percentage of energy comes from renewable and clean energy sources.

- I like it
- Increased % not high % we will never get high in our region. Not enough solar or hydro to do so.
- Doesn't the Senate Bill cover this one?
- don't like wording on this
-

G. Per capita energy consumption is reduced.

- I like it
- Good
- ...reduced by 10% over 5 yrs.

- Like this one

H. Citizens are able to choose from multiple energy sources.

- not something that Wake County can necessarily control
- Citizens "and businesses/organizations" are able...
- rewrite: Citizens are able to choose from multiple localized energy sources.
- People should not go cold because they can't pay for heat (cold)
- Not SMART
- I like
- 80% of gas stations have alternative fuels available (bio-diesel, charging station, ethanol, not corn, etc.)
-

I. Renewable and clean energy sources are cost effective and safe.

- Not SMART
- Sounds good, but is it possible?
- Renewable and clean energy sources are cost effective.
- This sounds great but can't be accomplished by fiat. It can be accomplished (sort of) by subsidy but that just means someone else pays.
-

J. All citizens have access to affordable energy

- Is it energy that should be affordable or energy services? For example, energy may be expensive but after an energy audit the energy services will be more affordable.
- Good, but is a motherhood and apple pie statement
- H and J are the same
- Not smart
- Sounds good, but is it possible?
- All citizens have access to multiple sources of affordable energy

K. Less coal is used for energy production.

- Never happen in N.C.
- Remove this specific objective as the main reason for wanting less coal consumption is pollution. Replace with more general verbiage such as "Lower levels of greenhouse emissions" This would allow coal to consider a fuel source if it can be "clean coal".
- Do we have facilities in Wake County that use coal to produce energy
- I think this is taken care of in 'F'
- Is this realistic? What will replace coal – natural gas, nuclear energy or something else?
- Change This One. Especially for mid-term. It might be that coal use could be cleaner, should a more affordable process be developed to make it so.
- like John Whitson's comment about being careful
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L. Transportation consumes less energy.

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- Does this assume mass transit? If not need mass transit objective
- Land use pattern could be changed to reduce transportation use.
- Concise – but is it too concise? Is it not specific enough
- Good goal but think it is long range
- All types of transportation? Public? Private?
- Again, Asking any energy user to consume less may not be realistic, it is likely more realistic to make the outcome measurable on a per-capita basis versus a grand total basis.
- Per capita

Comments not referenced to a specific letter:

- Used to include natural reduction from gas that is produced via “fracking”
- Didn’t see anything that incentivizes high density zoning in Wake County
- Schools and Public buildings as models for sustainable design and energy use (Medium Term objective)
- Encourage sustainable business practices to reduce energy use. (Medium Term objective)
- Strategies should include something about mass transit or improving pedestrian or bicycles traffic.
- Overall, I have a problem overall, I have a problem with establishing objectives that we cannot affect, like K. We need to have goals and objectives that are real.
- Missing shorter: Anything related to transportation – i.e. alternative options including bike lanes, rail infrastructure or include in L – transportation options not in strategies either
- Short term objectives are all about facilities. What about outputs from commercial/industrial productions?
- If planning is to include full life-cycle costs, the nuclear is clear, we need to consider disposal of nuclear waste and how that affects Wake County in the long term.
- I don’t believe cap and trade systems work too many loop holes. Fee schedule would be better.
- Add short term goal of identifying/new sources or means of production of energy.

Comments on Strategies

- Strategy section: “Continue subsidies” – I don’t understand. I thought subsidies came from state and federal government in form of tax incentives. What does Wake County do? If you’re talking about waiving taxes to lure or retain jobs, I think that’s a very bad idea.
- Incentivize energy efficient houses and appliances” – how does this work for Wake County government? I pay taxes to NC; I pay utility bills to Progress and PSNC.
- “Develop cap for fee structure” - ? I have no idea what this means.
- “Conduct energy audits” – of Wake County owned buildings? County can’t provide or require audits of private homes.

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- “Educate public about energy efficiency” – I think Wake County School does this for kids through Energy Savers program. Isn’t it the role of Progress and other energy companies to provide this for adult?
- “Develop Smart Grid infrastructure” – I’d like to learn more about this. What would the role of Wake County Government be in this, some kind of public – private partnership?
- I like:
 - Incentivize energy efficient houses, appliances
 - Evaluate and adjust ordinances...
 - Educate public about....
 - Educate commercial and industrial ...
 - Conduct energy audits...