

**Metro**Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation AuthorityOne Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952213.922.2000 Tel
metro.net**AD HOC SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 14, 2011****SUBJECT: RENEWABLE ENERGY POLICY****ACTION: ADOPT RENEWABLE ENERGY POLICY****RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) Renewable Energy Policy to develop and implement renewable energy technology applications, where feasible and practicable, to minimize non-renewable energy use in all of LACMTA capital assets or projects.

ISSUE

Sustainability and energy efficiency is a central LACMTA focus and commitment, cutting across virtually all aspects of the agency's mission, vision, values, and core business goals. We annually spend on average approximately \$26 million for electricity. About \$7 million of this total amount is for operation of bus and rail maintenance facilities, layovers, terminals, and headquarter buildings. The remaining are for propulsion power.

As the years progress, we have seen electricity costs rise due to periodic utility rate adjustments. We believe that in the volatile and costly energy market, embracing sustainability, energy efficiency, conservation, and implementation of renewable energy sources is a primary pathway towards gaining control of, and reducing our energy usage and costs and gaining energy independence.

LACMTA has already deployed and is using over two megawatts of electricity from renewable energy sources (i.e., photovoltaic sources exclusively) at three of our Bus Divisions and the Metro Support Services Center. One megawatt of power can power approximately 800 to 1,000 homes. This current portfolio represents approximately 2% of the energy needs of our agency.

A motion was passed by our Board of Directors in February 2011 calling for the establishment of a "Metro Renewable Energy Policy". The motion recognized that

under Measure R and the 30/10 plan, the projected expansion of the Metro system, including approximately 70 miles of light and heavy rail lines, will have substantial effect upon the projected cost of energy required in order to operate the Metro system.

The motion called for a review of the following elements:

- Assessment of technical feasibility for off-track, and on-track renewable power, including canopies, substations, parking lots and park 'n rides, landscaped areas, utility poles, tunnels, garages, maintenance buildings, etc., as well as creative renewable energy solutions.
- Life-cycle financial considerations including cost (i.e., initial capital as well as maintenance and replacement costs and life-cycle cost analysis).
- Use of creative financing mechanisms (such as Feed-in-Tariff, Power Purchase Agreements, ground leases, Public/Private Partnerships and State and Federal grants).
- Inclusion of life-cycle cost analyses for renewable energy use in awarding construction contracts for new lines.
- Existing industry and government guidelines for evaluating renewable energy and energy efficiency in new transit projects and discussion of their potential application to Metro projects.
- Retrofitting existing light rail, subway and bus rapid transit corridors for solar and other renewable power systems.
- Opportunities to partner with local power utilities.

The motion also called for a proposed plan of action and identification of specific opportunities for incorporating renewable energy (solar and other renewable power systems) and energy efficiency measures into existing and new transit projects. The motion requires that the Renewable Policy and plan should include the installation of a demonstration renewable energy system (preferably but not limited to solar panels) on at least one existing station as a demonstration project.

An amendment to the motion further indicated that the review and study of a proposed agency Policy, plan of action, and identification of specific opportunities be initially assigned to the Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee in order to put a greater focus on the issues during the development period. Once the policy has been developed with a Plan of Action and opportunities identified, the Renewable Energy Policy and project opportunities would return to the Operations Committee for the pursuit of implementation.

DISCUSSION

There have already been a number of staff initiated assessments on the subject of renewable energy such as the completion of a Solar Assessment Feasibility Study for all facilities; the completion of a Wind Energy Feasibility Study for our North San Fernando Valley bus divisions; and the completion of a wind energy study in our subway tunnels. Staff is also currently conducting an on-board energy conservation and technology study for rail vehicles; and an energy efficiency assessment of all Metro facilities to assess utility use and cost baseline as part of a feasibility study on opportunities to deploy energy-efficiency strategies leading to the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design-Existing Building Operations and Maintenance (LEED®-EBOM) certification of the buildings.

Staff is developing a comprehensive Energy Conservation and Management Plan (Energy Plan) that outlines both our supply and demand strategies to reduce energy use and costs in the maintenance and operation of our overall system. The Energy Plan further provides the guiding principles and implementation procedures in the management of the use and supply of electricity and natural gas, and identifies a proposed management plan to implement the identified energy strategies.

Renewable energy-related pilot or demonstration efforts are currently being planned or underway such as the following:

1. Wind Tunnel Energy – Subway Lines – projected to be installed along Red Line: Staff has conducted tests to understand the feasibility of wind tunnel renewable energy generation at our Red Line subway tunnel. Results indicate the potential of the technology. Staff had recently completed a Transit Investment for Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reduction (TIGGER) grant application for use in a pilot scale demonstration. A related procurement will be carried out to implement the pilot project when TIGGER funds are secured.
2. Solar Panels – Buildings – project selected at El Monte Station on Silver Line: Solar panels will be deployed at the new facility being constructed at our El Monte Station on the Silver Line and procurement will soon be advertised. This project will be used to demonstrate how solar panels are installed on new transit infrastructures.
3. Renewable Energy Project – Transit Facilities/Large Scale – project not yet selected: Following adoption of the proposed policy, LACMTA will begin the evaluation of one or more large-scale demonstration projects. The relatively large size and type of these projects will most likely require the approval of the procurement by the LACMTA Board in advance of issuing a solicitation document. While a potential scope of work has been considered, Metro will need further consultation with our agency's procurement team to better understand the types of proposals that may be feasible for such a comprehensive and large scale renewable energy project. Examples of the

types of parcels where this can be implemented include, but are not limited to: linear right of way corridors; vacant or excess land not currently in use; park and ride lots; and similar types of parcels.

4. Solar Panels – Transit Facilities/Small Scale – project selected along the Blue Line: It has been suggested that the Pico Station be the initial location for this pilot. This project will illustrate implementation of solar installations at relatively small scale structures. However, there is likelihood that the Pico Station would be modified when the proposed football stadium plans are finalized. As this policy will already be in place at that time; along with a requirement to rebuild the Pico Station, there should be a consideration of a much larger cost-neutral renewable energy source at the location. Other locations will be considered for possible implementation of this type of pilot project.

While there is now significant staff initiated momentum in exploring renewable energy sources and implementation of energy efficiency strategies, the adoption of a focused Renewable Energy Policy allows for the strategic implementation and expansion of functional and cost-effective renewable energy technologies within the Metro system. The provisions of the proposed Renewable Energy Policy complement the intent of our existing Environmental Policy and Energy and Sustainability Policy.

Staff further recommends that a measurable goal be incorporated into the Renewable Energy Policy to accomplish the policy's intentions. LACMTA currently uses approximately 20% of its total energy from renewable energy sources. These come from within our own renewable energy portfolio as well as those from the utilities.

There is already a state mandate for California utility companies to procure 33% of their total energy supplies from certified renewable resources by the year 2020. However, factors such as:

- local constraints that includes current and near-term economic conditions;
- decreasing availability and amount of energy rebates;
- viability of incorporating renewable energy projects in the context of accelerated Measure R projects' implementation;
- lack of control over unit costs of energy;
- as well as fast evolving renewable technology advances that may create operations and maintenance challenges if deployment of existing technologies is carried out significantly ahead of more cost-effective ones

altogether present challenges for a non-utility organization like the LACMTA.

Nonetheless, staff recommends a stretch goal of an additional 13% renewable energy use by 2020 above our current usage baseline of 20%. This will be achieved through the continued deployment of applicable, feasible, and practicable renewable energy sources at our sites as well as accounting for the increase in renewable energy portfolios of utilities supplying energy to our agency.

Staff recommends that this renewable energy goal be reviewed every five years to assess the continued viability of such a goal and make adjustments, if needed, to ensure the continued incorporation of renewable energy into Measure R and other agency capital assets and projects.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Renewable energy project development and deployment requires higher up-front capital investment than conventional energy sources. At the same time, the associated benefits are not necessarily reflected in these project capital costs. Innovative strategies are needed to increase investment, spread cost over the life-cycle, and reflect the multiple benefits of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Cost is however one of the primary considerations in the selection of appropriate renewable energy technologies that will be considered in any of our capital assets and projects. The Cost criteria examines the cost-competitiveness of the renewable energy technology based upon the cost of constructing the project(s) or retrofitting existing facilities or equipment; their on-going short-term and long-term operation and maintenance; and their overall life-cycle expenses costs relative to the baseline cost of non-renewable energy to achieve the same functional objective. In existing facilities, energy efficiency retrofits and retro-commissioning shall be compared together with renewable energy technology applications for combined life-cycle cost-effectiveness.

Staff will be examining various financial mechanisms, including incentives, subsidies, and deal structures that can aid in the development and deployment of renewable energy projects. Included in the analysis are financial mechanisms that are available to renewable energy developers including incentives and subsidies (feed-in tariffs, rebate programs, state and federal grants, and loans) and deal structures (power purchase agreements, ground leases and public-private partnerships). Any of these mechanisms are applicable and feasible to aid in the development and deployment of renewable energy in any of our capital assets and projects.

No Measure R funds will be used in the implementation of renewable energy projects. Staff will deploy renewable energy projects that will be as close to cost-neutral to the agency as possible.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Rejection of the recommended Board action is inconsistent with the intent of the Board approved motion to develop a comprehensive renewable energy policy for Metro. LACMTA will also miss the revenue-generation opportunities that may be associated with some of the incentives or deal structures, for example feed-in-tariffs. Feed-in-tariff

revenue can possibly offset maintenance costs associated with previously deployed renewable energy projects.

NEXT STEPS

After the proposed Renewable Energy Policy is adopted by the LACMTA Board, staff will continue the procurement of the identified pilot or demonstration renewable energy projects. The finalized Energy Plan will also be implemented as the guide to manage our use and management of energy resources in general; including the increase in our renewable energy portfolio.

A Request for Information and Qualification will be developed to solicit interest in developing the most comprehensive renewable energy program that can be implemented at LACMTA both short-term and long-term to achieve our renewable energy goal as close to cost-neutral as possible.

ATTACHMENT

- A. Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Renewable Energy Policy

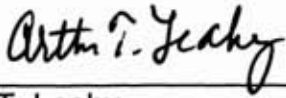
Prepared by: Cris B. Liban, Environmental Compliance and Services Department
Manager



Krishniah N. Murthy
Executive Director, Project Transit Delivery



Lonnie Mitchell
Chief Operations Officer



Arthur T. Leahy
Chief Executive Officer

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
RENEWABLE ENERGY POLICY**

POLICY STATEMENT

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) will develop and implement renewable energy technology applications, where feasible and practicable, to reduce non-renewable energy use in all LACMTA capital assets or projects.

PURPOSE

This policy provides guidance in 1) identifying criteria that can be applied to the feasibility, selection and application of a renewable energy technologies; 2) applicability of the Renewable Energy Policy; and 3) collaborative opportunities for funding the implementation of feasible and practicable renewable energy-related projects on or any LACMTA capital asset or project.

COMMITMENT

This Renewable Energy Policy complements the implementation of the LACMTA Environmental Policy and Sustainability and Energy Policy to identify cost-effective solutions to reducing non-renewable energy usage and increasing costs; and to ensure that our current and future energy-related activities would have minimal human health, environmental, and climate change impacts.

The LACMTA also commits to a renewable energy use stretch goal of 13% above its current baseline of 20% by the year 2020. This goal will be measured as the percentage of energy use from any renewable source (including those from the utilities' sources) compared to the amount of total energy used by LACMTA. This goal will be revisited every five years and will be adjusted accordingly to ensure the continued implementation of Measure R projects. Measure R funds will not be used to achieve this goal nor to implement the intent of this policy.

RENEWABLE ENERGY SELECTION CRITERIA

The LACMTA will consider the feasibility, selection, and implementation of applicable, feasible, and practicable renewable energy technologies at any of our capital assets and projects by comparing renewable energy technologies to one another considering the following criteria:

- 1) Cost: Potential renewable energy applications shall be analyzed for cost competitiveness based upon the cost of constructing the project(s) or retrofitting existing facilities or equipment; their on-going short-term and long-

term operation and maintenance; and their overall life-cycle expenses costs relative to the baseline cost of non-renewable energy to achieve the same functional objective. In existing facilities, energy efficiency retrofits and retro-commissioning shall be compared together with renewable energy technology applications for combined life-cycle cost-effectiveness.

- 2) Environmental Benefit: Renewable energy alternatives or low emissions high-efficiency energy applications, shall be analyzed for environmental benefits relative to the baseline utility electricity (or natural gas, for some solar water heat systems) based on greenhouse gas emissions that would be avoided, and as appropriate, environmental and public health and safety benefits.
- 3) Land Use Efficiency: Renewable energy applications shall reflect efficient land use in terms of the area a renewable energy project or system occupies for each unit of power it can generate.
- 4) Peak Shaving Benefit: The ability for renewable energy alternatives to offset peak non-renewable energy consumption shall be quantified.
- 5) Hedging Benefit: Renewable energy alternatives shall have their ability to contribute to or enhance price and supply certainty to LACMTA quantified relative to baseline energy use.
- 6) Local Content Use: Renewable energy applications shall utilize, where cost-effective and appropriate, equipment manufactured within Southern California.

APPLICABILITY

Once the field of possible renewable energy projects have been evaluated and compared to one other and applicable, feasible, and practicable renewable energy technologies are selected, they will be applied to capital assets and projects as follows:

- New Facilities and Transit Corridors and Projects: Selected renewable energy technologies shall be considered in all new projects from the early development, design and procurement stages, where practicable and feasible. Where applicable, feasible, and practicable, the selected project level renewable energy technology shall be combined with energy efficiency technologies.
- Existing Facilities and Capital Assets: Energy efficiency retrofits and retro-commissioning shall precede renewable energy technology applications. Renewable energy technology considerations will only commence after energy use is optimized. The LACMTA recognizes that renewable energy applications may precede energy efficiency retrofits if upfront cost and life-cycle benefits of renewable energy applications significantly outweigh those of energy efficiency retrofits.

In both cases, selected renewable energy technologies shall be compared with baseline energy supply for life-cycle benefits and costs to determine whether to proceed with the renewable energy technology for the project.

FUNDING AND COOPERATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

LACMTA shall work cooperatively with Federal, State, and local jurisdictions, Energy Services Corporations, utility companies, and other third parties to explore, develop, and engage in the innovative financing strategies to increase renewable energy investment and usage, spread cost over the life-cycle, and reflect the multiple benefits of renewable energy and energy efficiency in all LACMTA capital assets and projects. Deployment of any renewable energy technology at any capital asset or project shall be to the maximum benefit of the LACMTA.

QUANTIFICATION AND REPORTING OF RENEWABLE ENERGY USAGE AND BENEFITS

No later than 18 months after policy adoption and annually thereafter, LACMTA shall incorporate in the annual Sustainability Report the information generated from the implementation and operation of this Renewable Energy Policy including:

- 1) A description of the renewable energy projects planned or deployed;
- 2) Quantification of the resulting greenhouse gas emissions, cost savings, and revenue generated (if any) resulting from the use of renewable energy technologies and energy retrofits (in the case of existing buildings, facilities and equipment);
- 3) A description of other appropriate measures of progress;
- 4) A description of implementation challenges; and
- 5) Recommendations for any policy changes.