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**Adirondack Park Agency Policy,
Procedures & Guidance **System****

Agency-7

**Topic: Policy on Renewable Energy Production and
Energy Supply **in the Adirondack Park****

**/s/
Karen Feldman
Acting Chair**

Date: ?

I. Purpose

Wise use of energy resources and development of renewable energy resources offer an opportunity at a state and Park level to contribute to the reduction of global atmospheric carbon levels and climate change. At the state and Park level, we are committed to continue making investments in renewable energy to support millions of jobs, to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, to maintain public health, and to protect our environment, especially clean water and clean air. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) and others within the Adirondack Park regarding the APA's exercise of its powers, duties and responsibilities under the APA Act, the Freshwater Wetlands Act, and the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System Act regarding renewable energy production. **This policy amends and supersedes existing APA policy "Agency-7" concerning Energy Supply, Conservation and Efficiency in the Adirondack Park, dated November 14, 2008.**

II. Background

There is considerable public and private concern about energy supply, energy use and conservation, climate change, burning of fossil fuels, acid rain and airborne pollutants, and energy costs. Current and future development in the Park must be viewed as having a cumulative effect on the quality of Park resources and on the need for reliable and affordable energy supplies. The State of New York has initiated a number of

important efforts to address climate change, state energy needs, energy use, energy efficiency, sustainable communities and smart growth. These efforts include, but are not limited to:

1. The 2017 announcement by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo that New York had joined the United States Climate Alliance in collaboration with other states to uphold the Paris Climate Agreement.
2. The 2017 initiative by New York State to assess agency vulnerability to climate change and to assist agency efforts to train staff and take needed actions to reduce the impacts of climate change.
3. The 2015 New York State Energy Plan that coordinates State agencies and authorities that involve energy to advance the 2014 Reforming the Energy Vision agenda, initiates regulatory reform to integrate clean energy into the power grid, redesigns programs to foster private capital, and deploys innovative energy solutions across the State's facilities and operations. Renewable energy production including, but not limited to, alternatives such as wind and solar power are an important part of the state energy production policy, and have potential for limited development within the Park.
4. The APA has participated in a Public Service Commission review of new power facilities exempt from APA Act permitting and in Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and federal hydropower licensing reviews.
5. The APA, in cooperation with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and New York State Police, is participating in the construction of a wood biomass facility as an alternative energy source to heat the three agencies' Ray Brook facilities.
6. The APA coordinates regularly with NYSDEC, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, New York Power Authority, Department of Public Service, and New York State Department of Transportation, Public Service Commission to better understand each other's regulatory roles and responsibilities relative to electrical power transmission and distribution systems, and to aesthetic and reliability concerns within highway and utility rights-of-ways.

The APA Act recognizes the need to preserve the Park's resources and open space character while allowing for growth and service areas, employment, and a strong economic base. The APA has a responsibility to address important existing and emerging local and regional issues such as renewable energy.

The APA provides planning assistance to Park communities and reviews proposals for new residential, commercial, major public utility, and industrial activities.

III. Policy on Renewable Energy Production, Supply, and Conservation

A. General Policy

The policy is intended to ensure that the APA:

- Embraces the New York State Energy Plan while balancing any development with the APA Act mandates to protect Park resources;
- Integrates opportunities and concerns for renewable energy production and energy conservation into its Park planning, public education, and project review functions;
- Protects and enhances Park resources while recognizing that renewable energy production and energy conservation is critical to viable, sustainable human communities within the Park and in a state and global context; and
- Incorporates energy conservation measures into its facilities, fleet management, and operations.

B. Concerns for Energy Supply and Conservation

1. Park Planning

The APA encourages the development of alternative and renewable energy sources while recognizing the need to balance protection of natural, scenic, aesthetic, ecological, wildlife, historic, recreational, and open space resources of the Park.

The APA will provide leadership and participation in State-sponsored initiatives and programs to promote renewable energy production, sustainable development, and energy conservation in the Adirondack Park. The APA supports State and federal programs addressing climate change.

2. Public Education

The APA serves as a forum for discussion of energy-related issues within the Park by:

- Using its programs and activities to address such topics as renewable energy production, energy conservation, climate change, and sustainable communities;
- Posting information and providing links to pertinent information online, including State-sponsored energy programs, public and private sources of technical and financial assistance, and similar content;

- Posting a public information flyer on “Wind and Solar Power”; and
- Posting Development in the Adirondack Park guidelines to reduce the consumption of energy, especially from fossil fuels.

3. Project Review

The APA will assess need, siting, and other considerations when reviewing applications for: new or expanded energy generating facilities, including residential solar, residential wind; alternative power generating sources; and new or relocated energy transmission or distribution systems,. The APA will assess the potential impacts that any proposed land use and development may have on Park resources.

The APA’s Energy Guidance is available in the Development in the Adirondack Park Guidelines available at www.apa.ny.gov.

4. APA Energy Conservation and Efficiency Measures

The APA administration continuously evaluates all of its facilities, fleet management, and operations for opportunities to improve energy conservation and efficiency and implements improvements at the earliest opportunity within APA budget constraints. The APA also pursues other sources of state and federal funding in order to further this effort.

IV. Legal effect

This policy is not intended to set forth a fixed, general principle to be rigidly applied. Rather, its tenets are to be used solely as guidance and should be applied only after taking into account the specific facts and circumstances of APA’s exercise of its powers relative to renewable energy production.

V. Adoption

The APA has reviewed and adopted this policy effective DATE.

By _____
 Karen Feldman
 Acting Chair

 Date