



ISSUE

The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) supports full funding for activities and programs that achieve a clean and secure energy future.

RECOMMENDATIONS

PARTNERSHIPS

- Support the federal government partnership with local governments and regions to resolve critical energy issues.
- Engage directly with local elected officials, who understand the local needs, opportunities, and obligations through their “on-the-ground” perspective.
- Encourage partnerships between federal, state, regional and local government, universities and private industry.

FUNDING

- Fully fund the Energy Efficient and Conservation Block Grant program (EECBG) at \$2 billion per year to reduce fossil-fuel emission and total energy use, as well as improve energy efficiency and conservation in the transportation and building sectors with funding distributed and prioritized at the local level. Support eligibility of such grants to consortia of local governments acting together.
- Support and significantly expand incentives and support for the research, development and application of technologies that will reduce energy dependency and promote energy efficiency, clean energy, and renewable energy.
- Support regional energy planning and distribute incentives and funding through multi-jurisdictional regional planning organizations.

PROGRAM

- Urge the expansion of “green jobs” through “green collar” workforce training, which updates traditional workforce development programs to train at-risk/underemployed people in emerging energy and environmental skills.
- Encourage utility energy efficiency targets and support research into clean coal technologies to reduce greenhouse gases.
- Support the use of alternative, renewable energy sources, including wind, solar, wave, biofuels, and geothermal, and ensure that financial incentives for renewable energy production are structured to best encourage the development of such industries.
- Support nuclear energy and encourage the technology development for recycling and reusing nuclear waste.
- Support enhanced energy transmission and “smart” grid technologies and programs.
- Support regional and local collaboration and exchange to determine the best energy solutions to employ in the nation’s regions.
- Seek coordination among appropriate federal agencies to assist with the implementation of energy policies and programs.
- Support state, regional, and local programs aimed at reducing the burden of high energy costs on low income residents.

BACKGROUND

Regional Councils (RCs) play a key role in executing national energy policies and technologies across the country. Through broad-reaching strategies, long-range planning, public-private partnerships, and the development of locally-grown solutions, regional organizations can help transform the market and set us on a course for a clean energy future. Regional governments – both urban and rural -- have authority in developing the plans and projects needed to implement our national energy vision. They need adequate resources and support to carry out this responsibility.