



### ISSUE

The **National Association of Regional Councils (NARC)** supports full funding for activities and programs that achieve a clean and secure energy future, and encourages a regional approach to meet energy needs.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

#### PARTNERSHIPS

- Support the federal government partnership with local governments and regional planning organizations 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.
- Include energy issues as a core element within the federal interagency Sustainable Communities Partnership.

#### FUNDING

- Fully fund the Energy Efficient and Conservation Block Grant program (EECBG) to reduce fossil fuel emission and total energy use, as well as improve energy efficiency and conservation distributed and prioritized at the local level.
- Encourage the eligibility of EECBG grants to consortia of local governments acting together regionally.
- Support and significantly expand funding and incentives 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.
- Create a permanent financing platform to provide loans, loan guarantees and other credit support to clean energy technologies, including new nuclear power plants and equipment manufacturing facilities.
- Authorize “Regional Infrastructure Improvement Zones” (RIIZs), a change to the federal tax code that would allow for businesses or individuals to make tax deductible contributions toward COG/MPO pre-approved infrastructure projects.

#### PROGRAM

- Urge the expansion of green jobs through regional and local workforce training 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 industry development.
- Support and expand 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.

### BACKGROUND

Regional Councils (RCs) play a key role in executing regional and local energy activities through broad-reaching strategies, long-range planning, public-private partnerships, and the development of locally-grown solutions. Regional planning organizations can help transform the market and set us on a course for a clean energy future.