



PROCEEDINGS

Introduction

After welcoming the participants (Annex: List of participants) and presenting the agenda, Chantal Line Carpentier (CEC) introduced CEC's strategic plan on trade and environment and reviewed the goals set for promoting renewable energy. The main objective of the meeting was to go over the different projects for 2005 and discuss what would be the next steps for 2006–2008.

Renewable Energy Resource Mapping

It was agreed that the table on existing resource mapping should be corrected to eliminate repetition, include missing information and identify sources of free information. REEC members will send their final comments to the Secretariat by 2 December. On the basis of comments received, the Secretariat will draft a final report on what exists and where there are gaps.

The next steps proposed are:

- **Promote capacity building in Mexico.** It was clear that although there is already some expertise in Mexico, remote sensing data and wind mapping in complex terrain need to be improved, as existing methodologies are not adapted to such topography. It was also made clear that the three countries face these challenges.
- **The CEC to serve as a repository of information.** Sources of information regarding mapping of renewable energy resources are presently of variable quality and are scattered. California Energy Council, Canadian Wind Energy Association, NREL, to name a few, all have data available on this topic. It would be desirable to combine information such as links, maps, databases, contact experts, methodologies, etc. and post it on CEC's web site.
- **Provide additional information useful for developers.** Besides knowing where the resources are available, potential developers, such as First Nations, need to know what is marketable, competitive, technologically feasible and financially viable.

Best Practices in Financing Small-Scale Projects

It appears that the table compiled by the Secretariat that reviews best practices includes too many references, a number of which are not very relevant. REEC members will send their final comments to the Secretariat by 2 December. On the basis of comments received, the Secretariat will draft a report that will, among other things: describe successful case studies applicable to North America (as opposed to best practices that are too difficult to replicate since no two projects are the same); provide sources, such as contact details or Internet addresses for the programs; summarize general tendencies and lessons learned from renewable energy financing programs. This information should, as much as possible, be related to a particular stage of the project (i.e., development, pilot, scaling up, commercialization).

The next steps proposed are:

- ***Gather information on existing programs.*** The CEC could become a repository of information on the existing financing programs, with contacts and (live) links to the appropriate web sites. The project could start with the federal level program and then add provinces and states as the information becomes available and agreements are made to link our web sites to theirs.
- ***Differentiate available funding according to the stage and type of projects.*** As existing programs may relate to different stages (R&D, commercialization...) and different types of projects (household level, small plant, utility-related, on/off grid...), it may be useful to distinguish existing programs and funding accordingly.
- ***Develop a guide and a template project proposal for developers looking for financing.*** It appears that beyond knowing who the financing institutions are and what kinds of programs exist, developers need to know the criteria they must meet prior to seeking financing and how to prepare their business case.

Supplement the Database with Existing Laws

In 2004, the CEC generated a database on the existing and planned renewable energy capacity in North America. This database presents information on all renewable sources for each state/province/territory and is available on CEC's web site <www.cec.org/energy>. The project aims to supplement this database with existing renewable energy laws and policies in each state and province in North America.

It was agreed that the laws and policies listed on the DSIRE database will serve as a template for the information to be gathered in Canada and Mexico. For the US, the information will be

come directly from the DSIRE database. For Canada, Environment Canada will send relevant information to the Secretariat, which will also contact provincial ministries or departments of environment to collect additional data. In Mexico, as all energy policies are centralized at the federal level, Sener will be asked to provide the relevant data.

The next steps proposed are:

- ***Develop a search engine.*** Database users should be able to search information according to several variables such as the source of energy, location, type of policy, and so on. Therefore, a search engine would be a very useful addition.
- ***Automation of the database.*** As laws and policies change over time, and since we want the database to remain current, it would be necessary to link it to other web sites (live) to ensure the information we post is continuously updated.

Fostering Green Power Markets

The 2005 program includes the development of a white paper that documents renewable portfolio standards (RPS) and voluntary programs such as renewable energy certificates (REC) throughout North America. The paper will also identify constraints and capacity building requirements, especially for the development of green certificates and other infrastructure-related issues. REEC members will send comments on the outline presented by CRS and Claudio Alatorre by 2 December.

Participants agreed that provincial/state procurement should be included, that the report should be written in a positive way (i.e. not focusing on the negative aspects) and that consumers' willingness to buy green energy be considered as a driver.

Calculating Environmental Benefits

Over the past few years, the CEC has developed papers on how-to methods and hosted workshops on calculating the environmental benefits (air emissions reductions) of renewable energy. To finalize this project, the Secretariat will prepare a document providing simple, objective guidance on calculating environmental benefits.

Matt Clouse presented EPA's work on this topic and will distribute his presentation to the group. Craig Hanson from WRI summarized the principal methodologies considered by the three

countries and the different dimensions to consider. Derik Broekhoff then described the work of the GHG Protocol Electricity Workgroup (see attached presentation for both WRI speakers).

Although methodologies used in the three countries differ, the market for RECs should not be affected since buyers essentially require that the results of the benefits evaluation be acknowledged by government. Finally, even though these methodologies apply mostly to CO₂, they can easily be modified to evaluate other air emissions.

The next steps proposed are:

- **Web-based calculator.** By the end of this fiscal year, the CEC will post user-friendly versions of the information discussed above on its web site and provide links to related web sites. Beyond that, the CEC should develop, over the coming years, a tool that for calculating the avoided emissions, based on the different methodologies used in our three countries.
- **Calculate other externalities.** The CEC could look at other benefits and externalities. Participants suggested that CEC evaluate total costs of energy from all sources, including the whole range of externalities.

Green Purchasing of Renewable Energy

John Polak (TerraChoice) presented NAGPI's structure and its operating procedures. As part of its action plan, NAGPI will focus on promoting procurement of three products, one of them being green power. The objectives for 2006 are to: (i) learn lessons from other organizations; (ii) stimulate partnerships; (iii) join forces with important power purchasing groups; (iv) encourage government to consider offering incentives for buying renewable energy; (v) gain public endorsement. The complete action plan, along with further information on NAGPI, is available at <<http://www.nagpi.net>>.

Annex: List of participants

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