

**Sustainable Energy Policy**

\_\_\_\_\_  
General Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Per Board Vote  
Chairman/Date

**I. PURPOSE**

- A. To develop a practical approach to addressing the need for sustainable energy alternatives that are energy efficient while simultaneously balancing power supply costs.
- B. To establish general guidelines that promote practical, cost efficient sustainable energy alternatives.

**II. RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. RMLD Board of Commissioners
  - 1. Responsible for approving this policy.
  - 2. Review all recommended sustainable energy alternatives and ensure that they meet the policy guidelines.
- B. General Manager
  - 1. Responsible for implementing this policy.

**III. POLICY ELEMENTS**

- A. The RMLD is striving to develop a practical approach to addressing the need for sustainable energy alternatives while simultaneously balancing power supply costs. Sustainable energy meets the needs of the present without compromising future generations. For purposes of this policy, sustainable energy shall be defined as energy produced by a Non-emitting Electricity Generator, as that term is defined in 310 Mass. Reg. 7.75 (hydro, nuclear, ocean, solar, or wind), or a “renewable energy generating source”, as that term is defined in G.L. c. 25A, §11F, with or without associated Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs). G.L. c. 25A §11F(b) states that a “renewable energy generating source is one which generates electricity using any of the following: (1) solar photovoltaic or solar thermal electric energy; (2) wind energy; (3) ocean thermal, wave or tidal energy; (4) fuel cells utilizing renewable fuels; (5) landfill gas; (6) waste-to-energy which is a component of conventional municipal solid waste plant technology in commercial use; (7) naturally flowing water and hydroelectric; (8) low emission advanced biomass power conversion technologies using fuels such as wood, by-products or waste from agricultural crops, food or animals, energy crops, biogas, liquid biofuel including but not limited to biodiesel, organic refuse-derived fuel, or algae; or (9) geothermal energy.”
- B. RMLD will review the power supply portfolio from time to time with the intention of

meeting specific sustainability target percentages from a combination of Non-emitting Electricity Generators and renewable energy generating sources. Specifically, RMLD will strive to reach 22 percent sustainability by 2025, 40 percent sustainability by 2030, and 50 percent sustainability by 2035. These target percentages and dates will be reviewed by the RMLD Board of Commissioners annually as needed.

- C. The RMLD will analyze power supply projects with a competitive average power supply cost and positive environmental impacts. Only projects that meet this criterion will initially be brought to the General Manager for further review.
- D. If Massachusetts law requires the RMLD to participate in either a Clean Energy Standard (CES) or Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) Program, the RMLD will review and make required adjustments to this policy and the RMLD's power supply portfolio.
- E. In the interest of providing RMLD ratepayers with a cost-effective sustainable energy portfolio, RMLD shall have the ability to market all or a portion of the RECs from any existing contract or potential project until the target date deadline, unless and until a Program becomes applicable to the RMLD. At such time as a Program becomes applicable to RMLD, RMLD will purchase Emissions Free Energy Certificates (EFECs) or retire RECs associated with resources in RMLD's power supply portfolio up to the target amount in the most cost-effective manner possible.
- F. The General Manager will report monthly on the composition and estimated value of any Renewable Energy Certificates in its power supply portfolio, whether optioned, sold, or retired.