

PE4 Action: Green Power Procurement Policy**2 Points****4 Points****A. Why is this action important?**

Adopting a policy to require the use of renewable energy to meet government needs helps drive the expansion of the market for renewable energy. Depending on the scope of the local government's facilities and operations, its purchasing power can be considerable. This type of policy makes a commitment to allocate funding for the purchase of renewable energy, renewable energy credits (RECs), and/or the installation of renewable energy systems. A renewable energy procurement policy is a key action that helps local governments achieve their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goals and demonstrates their leadership in supporting the shift to an economy powered by clean, renewable energy.

B. How to implement this action

The local Climate Smart Communities (CSC) task force and local government staff should begin conversations with elected officials to build support for the purchase or installation of renewable energy. Conversations might include strategies to increase the reliance on renewable energy in phases, to spread costs over time, ensure reliability, and make a smooth transition. The policy could be developed through a larger climate action planning process, or the policy could be a standalone initiative to develop a strategy for scaling up the percentage of energy sourced from renewables and to adopt a policy initiating that process.

The next step is to draft a policy or resolution for adoption by the legislative body. This can be developed by local government staff and/or by an elected official. Also consult with the local government attorney for guidance on drafting and enacting the new policy.

In drafting the policy, local governments should also take into consideration any data on municipal energy use, such as those undertaken for [PE2 Action: Government Operations GHG Inventory](#) and [PE3 Action: Government Building Energy Audits](#) and renewable energy feasibility studies, such as those completed under [PE4 Action: Renewable Energy Feasibility Studies](#). Such analyses should inform the strategy for increasing the use of renewables. If a GHG inventory and/or feasibility study has not been performed, local governments may want to include one as a requirement in the policy.

Local governments may gather input for this policy through engagement with key stakeholders and/or the public at large. They may also want to consider consulting with utilities, state agencies, and green power marketers and brokers.

For this CSC action, the policy must include specific goals and timeframes that define the proportion of government energy use to come from renewable sources. To receive full credit for this action, local governments must also develop a plan for implementing the policy that outlines the approach to increasing the use of renewables in government facilities and operations. This plan could be included in the policy or resolution or could be a standalone document.

Once the policy is finalized and passed, local governments may want to celebrate this accomplishment through a press release or event designed to increase public awareness around the benefits of switching to clean, renewable energy.

C. Time frame, project costs, and resource needs

The time frame for establishing such a policy depends partly on the level of local support for renewable energy and the quality of information available about the options and the energy needs of local government operations. The costs and resource needs for developing a policy and/or passing a resolution may be considered part of the normal legislative costs. However, some local governments may elect to perform a renewable energy feasibility study as part of developing

the policy, which will require staff time and possibly consultants (see guidance under *PE4 Action: Renewable Energy Feasibility Studies*).

D. Which local governments implement this action? Which departments within the local government are most likely to have responsibility for this?

This action is applicable to any local government. Staff who manage government's GHG inventories would likely help provide data to inform the policy. Staff from the planning department may be involved in drafting the policy and developing a plan to implement it. The legislative body would facilitate the adoption of the policy.

E. How to obtain points for this action

Points for this action are tiered based development on the two following components:

	POSSIBLE POINTS
Adopt a resolution or policy to increase government use of renewable energy.	2
Develop a plan or strategy for increasing the use of renewables.	2

F. What to submit

Submit a policy that is consistent with the guidelines described above and provide evidence that it was formally adopted by the local government. The policy may have been adopted any time prior to the application date. For full points, also submit the plan or strategy for implementing the policy. The implementation plan can be included in the policy or could be a standalone document. Applicants should also provide information on progress toward meeting their renewable energy targets, if applicable.

All CSC action documentation is available for public viewing after an action is approved. Action submittals should not include any information or documents that are not intended to be viewed by the public.

G. Links to additional resources or best practices

- [US EPA Green Power Procurement](#)

H. Recertification requirements

The recertification requirements are the same as the initial certification requirements.