Alaska State Biomass Policies and Instruments

2000-2013

Wood Energy Pre-Feasibility Grants (Disbursement)

Renewable Energy Grant Program (Disbursement)

Sustainable Natural Alternative Power (SNAP) (Tax Policy)

Tax Policy:

Wood Energy Pre-Feasibility Grants – The Alaska Wood Energy Development Task Group (AWEDTG) consists of a coalition of federal and state agencies and not-for-profit organizations that have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to explore opportunities and feasibility to increase the utilization of wood for energy and biofuels production in Alaska. These organizations include: the Alaska Energy Authority; Alaska Village Initiatives; Denali Commission; Juneau Economic Development Council; National Renewable Energy Laboratory; State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry; USDA Farm Service Agency, Alaska; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Alaska; USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station; USDA Rural Development, Alaska; USDI Bureau of Indian Affairs, Alaska; USDI Bureau of Land Management, Alaska; USDA Economic Development Administration, Alaska; University of Alaska Fairbanks, Cooperative Extension Service; and USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region.

Disbursements:

Power Project Loan Fund – Provides loans to local utilities, local governments, regional and village corporations, village councils, and independent power producers. It is designed for the development or upgrade of small-scale power production facilities, conservation facilities, and bulk fuel storage facilities. This includes energy production, transmission and distribution, and waste energy conservation facilities that depend on fossil fuel, wind power, tidal, geothermal, biomass, hydroelectric, solar, or other energy sources. The loan term is related to the life of the project. Interest rates vary between tax-exempt rates at the high end and zero on the low end.

Sustainable Natural Alternative Power (SNAP) Program – Golden Valley Electric (GVA) SNAP program encourages members to install renewable energy generators and connect them to their utilities’ electrical distribution system by offering an incentive payment based on the system’s production on a $/kWh basis. The producers of Renewable Power do not keep any of the power they produce. The power they produce is measured separately from their existing home or business energy use by a separate meter. GVEA also developed specific standards for the interconnection of SNAP generators to their distribution system.

Renewable Energy Grant Program – The grant program is intended to provide assistance to utilities, independent power producers, local governments, and tribal governments for feasibility studies, reconnaissance studies, energy resource monitoring, and work related to the design and construction of eligible facilities. In order to be eligible for a grant, projects must be located within Alaska. The enabling legislation states an intention to provide $50 million in funding annually to the program for five years, but $100 million was appropriated for the FY 2009 program. The initial allocation plan recommends that 20% of the funding go to reconnaissance, feasibility and resource studies, and the remaining 80% be awarded to final design, permitting and construction projects. In the State of Alaska, H.B. 152 (2008) goes in conjunction with H.B 250 (2012).

Rules and Regulations:

Market Activity:

Cost-Share and Grants:

Government Services: