



Northern Alaska Environmental Center

2008 Conservation and Energy Efficiency Talking Points

NAEC strongly supports the following measures as solutions to Alaska's overall energy needs, and to reduce emissions of pollutants that contribute to Global Warming. State and Local groups are stepping up their search for energy solutions, and we'd like to share the sum of our thinking on this issue.

Because of the reality of meeting the requirements of a dispersed population with diverse energy needs, we do not look to any particular project as a "silver bullet" solution to our overall energy needs, and we caution the public against looking for one-stop solutions to such a complex issue.

- **Energy conservation - As the most immediate and effective solution to reducing GHG emissions, as well as energy costs, we will work to reduce consumption, increase recycling, and improve energy efficiency in the built environment and transportation sectors.**
- **Cleaner energy production - We will work with existing and planned utilities that supply energy and with local and statewide programs to promote the development and use of renewable sources of energy such as wind, solar, geothermal, tidal and wave, small-scale hydro-electric, and sustainable biomass.**
- **Waste Stream Use – Wood and paper waste can be used as a clean fuel source. We must rethink how we view the waste stream, and see it as a resource or energy stream.**

NAEC is opposed to the following:

- **Subsidies for non-renewable energy resources unless they can be demonstrated to be the most energy efficient alternative for a community or region**
- **Oil and gas drilling and extraction in ecologically sensitive areas**
- **Any expansion of coal burning in Alaska unless and until the industry develops and implements technology that meets environmental standards for clean emissions**
- **Based on the various unacceptable risks involved, we oppose development of nuclear power plants in Alaska**

We will evaluate large-scale energy projects on a case-by-case basis. We will not endorse a proposal for any specific project until the environmental reviews have been fully vetted and until such project is demonstrated to be the best solution to meet the need, whether that need be local or regional.