

OCCA Board of Directors Alternative Energy Position Statement

The Otsego County Conservation Association Board of Directors supports the research, development and application of alternative renewable energy sources preceded by a thorough New York State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) process. The OCCA Board defines alternative energy as energy that comes from natural, **renewable** sources, such as geothermal, wind, solar, and hydro, and which does not exhaust natural resources or harm the environment.

OCCA Board of Directors Alternative Energy Resolution

Whereas Americans use vast amounts of energy for daily living and the use of fossil fuels to meet our energy needs requires continual investment in a dwindling, non-renewable, energy supply and

Whereas it is the responsibility of the Otsego County Conservation Association (OCCA) Board to advocate for the conservation and protection of the environment of Otsego County and

Whereas the OCCA Board of Directors recognizes that the cheapest, easiest and most effective way to reduce one's carbon footprint is to conserve energy, and the OCCA Board advocates for all municipalities, businesses, non-profits, landlords, and home owners to implement energy audits, to implement energy conservation measures, to reduce energy use and

Whereas OCCA supports the ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability* program and Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) and encourages all municipalities, the county and towns to participate in the CCP Program or similar programs and

Whereas the OCCA Board also supports the research, development and application of alternative renewable energy sources preceded by a thorough New York State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) process and

Whereas the OCCA Board of Directors defines alternative energy as energy that comes from natural, **renewable** sources, such as geothermal, wind, solar and hydro, and does not exhaust natural resources or harm the environment

Therefore be it resolved that the OCCA Board of Directors supports the following alternative energies based on the most up-to-date research:

- Geo-thermal in all applications.
- Wind in small-scale applications or under particular citing requirements. It is understood that mediation will be implemented to reduce bird and bat kills, light flicker for nearby residents, noise, fragmentation of habitats, and avoidance of bird fly ways, with extensive environmental monitoring of individual turbine sites, pre and post construction, and with input from local officials, state and national agencies, and wind companies.
- Photovoltaic and solar thermal energy applications (small to moderate scale), either for creating electricity or heating water.
- Hydroelectric power in small-scale applications or when properly cited with proper protection for fish and other aquatic organisms.
- Biomass in small scale residential uses if shown to be safe and efficient.
- Any other alternative energy projects would be considered after thorough review.

*ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is an international association of local governments as well as national and regional local government organizations who have made a commitment to sustainable development. In 2003, the “International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives” became “ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability” with a broader mandate to address sustainability issues.