



NARC National Association of Regional Councils

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY

BUILDING REGIONAL COMMUNITIES – LARGE, SMALL, URBAN AND RURAL – THROUGH ADVOCACY, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

ISSUE

The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) supports the development of a comprehensive and integrated national energy policy that addresses the need to become energy independent.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONGRESS

- Support and increase incentives for the research, development and application of technologies that will reduce energy dependency.
- Support and increase incentives for the research, development and application of technologies that promote clean energy, renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- Establish incentives and funding facilitated through multi-jurisdictional regional planning organizations in order to comply and maintain national energy policies at the local levels.
- Develop incentive-based programs that will empower localities and regions to create solutions that will promote energy standards and needs.
- Support regional government collaboration on determining and employing solutions at the regional level.
- Seek coordination among all federal agencies that deal with energy and environmental issues to assist with policy development and implementation.
- Encourage partnerships between federal, state, regional and local government, as well as public and private industry and business entities.

BACKGROUND

Today, the world consumes over 80 million barrels of oil every day (over 30 billion barrels per year); the USA alone consumes over 20 million barrels per day (over 7 billion barrels per year). At an average price of \$60 per barrel, the global petroleum industry is a 1.8 trillion dollar a year business. Even though many Americans think energy is only oil, this is not true. Energy can be derived from many other natural resources. Oil is merely a convenient source of energy. With a focus on national energy policy and technology development, America's energy needs can be obtained from sources, while promoting clean, renewable and efficient energy sources which will improve all aspects of life.

Regional Councils (RCs) are a key element in executing national energy policies and technologies at the local levels. Both rural and urban areas alike are impacted by the affects of energy production and consumption, whether it is biofuels on a corn farm in Iowa or the flow of freight on rail and truck out of the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, regional governments have direct authority in developing the plans and projects, and following the mandates required by state, local or federal governments for the betterment of regional and community development. It is, therefore, critical that RCs, the relevant resource agency, are intimately involved in the national policy debate.