

ENERGY GROUP

Our Vision

Our vision is of a future in which Nevada County's energy for buildings comes from local clean, renewable, and efficient sources.

Our Mission

We are committed to promote and facilitate energy conservation, energy efficiency and production of sustainable energy in Nevada County

What is Sustainable Energy?

Sustainable energy is any source or application of energy which is renewable and meets the energy needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to enjoy social well-being, a vibrant economy, and a healthy environment. This includes energy from:

1. Passive and active solar heating
2. Photovoltaic electric generation
3. Wind electric generation
4. Micro-hydroelectric generation
5. Biodiesel
6. Biomass
7. Geothermal
8. Landfill gas (methane)
9. Ground source heating and cooling (heat pumps)

Some of these energy sources may be found to have environmental or other impacts that make them unsustainable for Nevada County.

Our Goals

1. Promote the use of sustainable energy for residential and commercial buildings
2. Provide a forum through which the community can share ideas, and develop joint initiatives — supported by up-to-date information and technical research — with regard to human shelter
3. Speak with a strong collective voice to municipal, county, state and federal governments (and other agencies) on issues concerning the development of sustainable energy and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants in Nevada County
4. Provide the public with information on Nevada County's sustainable energy resources.

5. Promote conservation of energy and reduce the total energy demand of Nevada County by motivating the community to reduce, reuse and recycle
6. Increase the use of solar panels for both water heating and electricity production and promote the use of micro-hydroelectric generation where feasible
7. Establish a customer-owned energy cooperative that will be able to supply our electrical needs from sustainable sources, including a wind farm and hydroelectric resources
8. Help make Nevada County a model for other communities in the generation and use of locally produced, sustainable energy

Our Projects Listed in order of urgency (short-term to long-term):

- Create a series of presentations on energy issues (for the public and for specific groups)
- Conduct an overall energy audit for Nevada County
- Recruit new members to the Energy group
- Facilitate an energy issues workshop for city and county officials, media, businesses and energy experts in order to focus the community's attention on energy depletion and the need for action
- Implement energy generation programs at our local health clubs
- Organize "energy assessment teams" to promote energy conservation in existing residential and commercial buildings (get students involved)
- Present recommendations for an overall Energy Policy to city and county governments, including changes in county building regulations
- Develop recommendations for changes to city and county laws and regulations including the promotion of village-oriented planning in the county
- Work with the County to create a building materials recycling facility
- Establish a member-owned renewable Energy Cooperative
- Find manufacturers of sustainable energy products who will set up manufacturing plants in Nevada County
 - Lobby SMA (producer of inverters for PV systems) to build a manufacturing plant here
 - Lobby a solar panel company to build a manufacturing plant in Nevada County
 - Help to start a business that would manufacture insulation from local resources
- Continue to work with the Outreach group to educate the public on energy issues through presentations, printed materials, and other media coverage of the projects listed above

At The State Level:

- Promote Advanced Renewable Tariffs for renewable energy production
- Promote a rebate program for retrofitting double glazed windows
- Promote a rebate program for retrofitting insulation