

2012 Idaho Energy Plan Policies / Actions

Policy	Action Item	Original 2012 Idaho Energy Plan Policy/Action (with modifications highlighted)	Status	Modifications from 2007 Plan	Consensus Status & Associated Comments
ELECTRICITY RESOURCES					
Policy #1		Enable robust development of a broad range of power generation and energy efficiency resources within environmentally sound parameters that are cost-effective. for households and businesses.	Updated from 2007 Plan	Replaced original policy to provide a more comprehensive policy; changed "Idaho utilities should acquire" with "enable robust development" to make this more actionable for the Legislature.	Consensus reached with noted modification.
Policy #2		Align legislative policies, regulatory policies, and state agency activity to consistently message state objectives regarding energy efficiency, energy production, and delivery.	New Recommendation	Provide a general policy statement to help define the purpose of the Plan.	Delete as a policy statement and incorporate into a transmittal letter.
Policy #3		Establish cost-effective conservation, energy efficiency and demand response as the highest a priority electricity resource for Idaho.	Updated from 2007	Was Policy #5 but removed former renewable resource piece to focus on energy efficiency.	Consensus reached with noted modifications.
Policy #4		Encourage the development of customer-owned and community-owned renewable energy and combined heat and power facilities that meet the Energy Plan objectives of the State of Idaho.	Unchanged from 2007 Plan		Delete. The Board does not believe this policy is necessary. It will be put on an addendum list for policies/actions the Board deleted but that the IC may choose to keep.
	Action E-1.	Idaho utilities should continue to acquire resources that are reliable, that promote diversity, are cost-effective and environmentally sound to meet their customers' short and long-term electricity needs.	Updated from 2007 Plan	Updated from "should acquire" to "continue to acquire" and added short-term needs.	Consensus reached
	Action E-2.	Idaho investor-owned electric utilities should continue to conduct formal Integrated Resource Planning, or the individual, board-accepted equivalent for public utilities, to assess the relevant attributes of a diverse set of supply-side and demand-side resource options and to continue to provide an opportunity for public input into utility resource decisions.	Updated from 2007 Plan	Updated from "should conduct" to "continue to conduct" and added information for consumer-owned utilities.	Consensus reached

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Policy	Action E-3-	The IPUC and Idaho’s municipal and cooperative utilities should ensure that their policies provide incentives that orders and actions are consistent with this the priority order policies and objectives listed in the Idaho Energy Plan.	Updated from 2007 Plan	Removed "ratepayer and shareowner incentives"	Consensus reached with noted modifications. Change this from an Action to a Policy.
	Action E-4.	Idaho’s electric utilities should continue evaluating transmission as a resource option in their Integrated Resource Plans filed every two years with the Idaho PUC and should continue participating in the development of local, sub regional, and regional transmission plans in order to construct transmission facilities that are needed to provide reliable, low cost energy service to their customers, access to regional markets, and access to a diverse set of current and new resources in the most cost-effective and efficient manner practicable.	Updated from 2007 Plan	Combined former Action E-22 related to regional participation with addition of including transmission as an IRP resource. Provides info that transmission is considered in IRPs. Also added "should continue evaluating" to indicate that this is already being done.	Consensus reached; this action item helps inform the process
	Action E-5-	Idaho and Idaho utilities should continue to prepare resource plans that balance a variety of attributes, costs and risks, including the possibility of federal regulation of greenhouse gas emissions as well as encourage technologies that minimize emissions, harmful pollutants, and consumptive use of water.	Updated from 2007 Plan	Updated by combining former Policy #10 and Policy #11 into an action item.	Delete. Utilities are already balancing risks against costs. This action is redundant with E-2. With respect to regulatory obligations, we should continue to encourage following national policies and feel it would be prudent to strive not to be any more stringent than federal standards.
RENEWABLE GENERATION RESOURCES					

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	Action E-6.	Idaho should encourage cost-effective investment in customer-owned renewable generation and combined heat and power facilities. offer tax incentives for Idaho businesses and households.	Updated from 2007 Plan	Broadened to "tax incentives" from "income tax incentives".	Consensus reached with noted modifications. The Board has concerns with the term "incentives" and why and whether we should incent specific things, as well as when and where these incentives are appropriate. Encourage a broad range of actions to foster investment and expand its application beyond Idaho businesses and households. This may also assist in encouraging economic development.
	Action E-7.	Energy project financing by the Idaho Energy Resources Authority should be encouraged to promote energy and economic development.	Updated from 2007 Plan	Updated to be more general. Was: "Idaho should provide a credit backstop to enable the Idaho Energy Resources Authority to provide low-cost financing for customer-owned renewable generation and combined heat and power facilities."	Consensus reached. The 2007 Plan put the risk of a credit backstop for the IERA on the state so that was removed. Be aware of potential constitutional issues of state agencies financing private projects.
	Action E-8.	Idaho utilities should provide customers with the information and choices that enable them to more effectively manage their electricity consumption.	New Recommendation	Added to allow inclusion of new technologies and approaches.	Consensus reached.
	Action E-9.	In accordance with federal law, the Idaho PUC should continue to administer its responsibilities under the Public Utility Regulatory Policy Act. in a way that encourages the cost-effective development of customer-owned renewable generation, and combined heat and power facilities.	Updated from 2007 Plan	Updated to include "cost-effective"	Consensus reached with noted modifications. Note that this is already a legal requirement and stating the obvious, so the Board encourages the IC to consider removing it.

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Policy	Action Item	Original 2012 Idaho Energy Plan Policy/Action (with modifications highlighted)	Status	Modifications from 2007 Plan	Consensus Status & Associated Comments
	Action E-10.	The Idaho PUC, utilities, municipalities, and cooperatives should establish ensure uniform non-discriminatory policies that provide for interconnection and net metering of that promote investment in customer-owned generation. renewable energy facilities. Idaho's municipal and cooperative utilities should work together to develop a uniform policy for municipal utilities and rural electric cooperatives.	Unchanged from 2007 Plan		Consensus reached with noted modifications. The Board noted that this is already being done and would request that the IC consider removing it, especially as it is more a philosophy than an action.
	Action E-11.	Idaho utilities shall should continue to report annually to their retail customers their sources of electricity (their "fuel mix").	Unchanged from 2007 Plan		Consensus reached with noted modifications. The Board noted that this is already being done.
CONVENTIONAL GENERATION RESOURCES					
	Action E-12.	The Idaho PUC, the Office of Energy Resources, and the Department of Environmental Quality should monitor the status of "clean coal" advanced energy generation technologies in order to stay aware of opportunities and risks. and barriers that prevent Idaho utilities from investing in environmentally preferred uses of coal.	Updated from 2007 Plan	Changed "investigate and report on" clean coal to "monitor." Changed Dept. of Water Resources to OER.	Consensus reached with the expansion from one technology to all potential energy generation technologies.
	Action E-13.	Idaho leaders, electric utilities and other energy-related companies, economic development professionals, universities, other stakeholders and the Idaho National Laboratory should work cooperatively to assess opportunities and risks associated with development of commercial nuclear power and nuclear energy-related services in Idaho and provide related recommendations.	Updated from 2007 Plan	Expanding the original information beyond working with INL to also include regional entities, economic development specialists, energy-related companies, universities and other stakeholders.	Consensus reached. In the 2007 Plan they called out engaging with the INL on a specific project. It is important to continue the dialogue on nuclear energy and stay abreast on activities in this sector in a more broad and inclusive fashion.

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	Action E-14.	Idaho should encourage the efficient use of water resources in all energy generation facilities with a focus on efficient cooling . use of "dry cooling" or "gray water" cooling for new thermal facilities.	Unchanged from 2007 Plan		Consensus reached as amended. The Board encourages the IC to consider adding a general policy item related to environmental mitigation as well as pulling related actions together on this element. The ISEA offers their assistance in doing this.
TRANSMISSION					
	Action E-15.	Idaho should continue participating in regional efforts aimed at increasing the capability of the western transmission grid and bringing to Idaho the benefits of cost-effective remote resources.	Unchanged from 2007 Plan		Consensus reached.
	Action E-16.	Energy project financing by the Idaho Energy Resources Authority should be encouraged to promote low-cost financing for transmission or distribution projects that benefit Idaho citizens and promote economic development.	Updated from 2007 Plan	Updated to include references to distribution and to include economic development. The 2007 Plan put the risk of a credit backstop on the state for the IERA so that was removed.	Consensus reached.
	Action E-17.	Idaho should support efforts to amend the Internal Revenue Code to provide that revenue bonds issued by state transmission entities (IERA) be provided with tax exempt status to provide additional ability to construct needed transmission facilities.	Unchanged from 2007 Plan		Deleted. May have constitutional issues with the state financing public projects of this kind. There is also some confusion on what this action description means.
NATURAL GAS					
Policy #5		<i>It is Idaho policy to employ encourage the most effective highest and best use of natural gas and ensure that Idaho consumers have access to a an abundant and reliable supply from diverse and varied resources.</i>	Unchanged from 2007 Plan	In the text page 118, add "today, in many circumstances, it is the highest and best use..." Karl will provide comments.	Consensus reached with noted modifications.Changed text slightly to make this consistent and factual.

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Policy #6		<i>It is Idaho policy to support responsible exploration and production of natural gas supplies and the expansion of the transmission, storage and distribution infrastructure.</i>	Unchanged from 2007 Plan		Consensus reached.
	Action NG-1.	Idaho should provide incentives for encourage investments in non-traditional natural gas supply resources, including landfill methane, anaerobic digesters, and biomass methane.	Unchanged from 2007 Plan		Consensus reached with noted modifications. The Board again noted that incentives are only one way to encourage investment and that incentives may support special interests and should be handled with care.
	Action NG-2.	Idaho should support the siting of liquefied natural gas terminals and other infrastructure in the United States to provide delivery capability to Idaho.	Unchanged from 2007 Plan		Deleted. New technologies have rendered this action moot.
PETROLEUM & TRANSPORTATION FUELS					
Policy #7		<i>It is Idaho policy to promote the production and use of cost-effective and environmentally-sound alternative fuels.</i>	Unchanged from 2007 Plan		Consensus reached.
Policy #8		<i>It is Idaho policy to promote conservation and efficiency as a means of reducing the burden of transportation fuel expenditures on Idaho households and businesses, improving the reliability and cost of Idaho's transportation fuel supply, and reducing transportation-related emissions.</i>	Unchanged from 2007 Plan		Consensus reached with noted modifications.
Policy #9		<i>It is Idaho policy to support responsible exploration and production of petroleum supplies and the expansion of transmission, storage and distribution infrastructure benefiting Idaho.</i>	Unchanged from 2007 Plan		Consensus reached.

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ALTERNATIVE FU					
	Action T-1.	Idaho should ensure that its state vehicle procurement rules promote purchases of high-efficiency, flex-fuel, natural gas and alternative-fuel vehicles where cost-effective.	Unchanged from 2007 Plan		Consensus reached as amended. Note that this is already being done.
	Action T-2.	Idaho should provide incentives for encourage the purchase of efficient, flex-fuel, and alternative fuel vehicles	Unchanged from 2007 Plan		Consensus reached as amended; natural gas is deleted since it is covered by the phrase alternative-fuel vehicles. IC should consider incentives holistically in the appropriate time and place in service of the broader public good. Perhaps the Energy Plan should consider a policy statement on incentives as whole and their goals and objectives.
	Action T-3.	Idaho should provide encourage incentives for investments in retail and wholesale alternative fuel supply infrastructure.	Unchanged from 2007 Plan		Consensus reached as amended.
	Action T-4.	Idaho should establish an incentive for the production of ethanol and biodiesel that reflects the cost of alternative fuel production relative to the price of gasoline and diesel fuel.	Unchanged from 2007 Plan		Deleted. It was noted that we are incenting something that already has federal incentives.
	Action T-5.	Idaho should promote research and development and business-university partnerships to speed the commercialization of alternative fuel technologies. with particular emphasis on cellulosic ethanol.	Unchanged from 2007 Plan		Consensus reached as amended.

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	Action T-6.	Idaho should prohibit “exclusivity” requirements in future contracts between fuel suppliers and retail service stations that prevent the stations from offering alternative fuels.	Unchanged from 2007 Plan		Deleted. The Board encourages the IC to research this to see if it is still relevant and to examine federal regulation (fuel standards) in this area.
TRANSPORTATION FUEL CONSERVATION					
	Action T-7.	Idaho should work with other states to promote an increase in Federal CAFE standards.	Unchanged from 2007 Plan		Deleted. Action is not needed do to recent federal increases in CAFÉ standards (see recent federal increases in CAFE standards: 2014 - 2018 mileage years already done for medium and heavy duty and proposed new GHG and CAFE for 2017 and beyond.)
	Action T-8.	Idaho should permit local authorization of transit option taxes to support the use and expansion of public transportation.	Unchanged from 2007 Plan		Deleted. Could have unintended consequences and should be more closely examined. Need to examine what is still relevant today; the Board does not have expertise in this area and we encourage more full debate in the Legislature.
	Action T-9.	Idaho should provide incentives for the installation and operation of equipment that reduces truck and tour bus idling.	Unchanged from 2007 Plan		Deleted. See explanation above.
	Action T-10.	Idaho should encourage regional land use planning and policies that minimize vehicle miles traveled.	Unchanged from 2007 Plan		Deleted. See explanation above. The Board encourages taking a more holistic look at this.
CONSERVATION & ENERGY EFFICIENCY					

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Policy	Action Item	Original 2012 Idaho Energy Plan Policy/Action (with modifications highlighted)	Status	Modifications from 2007 Plan	Consensus Status & Associated Comments
	Action CE-1.	All Idaho utilities should fully incorporate cost-effective conservation, energy efficiency and demand response as the priority resources in their Integrated Resource Planning.	Unchanged from 2007 Plan		Consensus reached as amended.
	Action CE-2.	The Idaho PUC should encourage investor owned utilities (IOUs) to pursue a cost effective conservation in their service territories.	Updated from 2007 Plan	Updated to remove "annual targets" per IPUC.	Consensus reached upon deleting the word "all". Gives the Commission authority to manage these investments and define what is "cost-effective". It also gives the utilities more options to make fiscally responsible choices for customers.
	Action CE-3.	The Idaho PUC should establish and continue to periodically update an avoided-cost benchmark for each utility to be used in evaluating the cost-effectiveness of conservation and renewable resource investments and in calculating payments to Qualifying Facilities under the Public Utility Regulatory Policy Act (PURPA).	Unchanged from 2007 Plan		Consensus reached as amended. But note that this is already being done.
	Action CE-4.	The Idaho PUC should seek to eliminate disincentives that stand as barriers to implementing cost-effective conservation measures. The PUC should consider appropriate methods to avoid the disincentives associated with investor owned utility conservation efforts. Options may include, but are not limited to: i. Recovery of revenues lost due to reduced sales resulting from conservation investments; ii. Capitalization of conservation expenditures; iii. A share of the net societal benefits attributable to the utility's energy efficiency programs.	Updated from 2007 Plan	Updated with new text from "establish... incentives" to "eliminate disincentives"; removed last two bullet items in the original list regarding an increase in ROE for savings targets and decoupling.	Consensus reached.

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	Action CE-5.	The Idaho PUC should support market transformation programs that provide cost-effective energy savings to Idaho citizens.	Unchanged from 2007 Plan		Consensus reached. It was noted that these types of programs are already in place. The Board questioned how the IC would like to make this actionable.
	Action CE-6.	The Idaho PUC and Idaho utilities should continue to adopt rate designs that encourage more efficient and effective use of energy.	Updated from 2007 Plan	Changed "should" to "should continue to"	Consensus reached as amended. Board noted that future technologies may create new opportunities for managing both resources and the energy system so this should be flexible.
	Action CE-7.	Idaho's municipal and cooperative utilities should annually report their estimates of cost-effective conservation in their service territories and their estimated savings in electrical energy (MWh) and peak capacity (kW) during the lifetime of the measures implemented.	Updated from 2007 Plan	Updated to make the text more accurate and to remove who the consumer-owned utilities (per their request) should report to, their specific plans and expenditures as this is not required by state law.	Consensus reached as amended. Not all conservation measures turn out to be cost-effective.
	Action CE-8.	Idaho should offer encourage tax incentives for investments in energy efficient technologies by Idaho businesses and households to the extent practical and should offer tax exemptions on the purchase of energy efficient technologies.	Updated from 2007 Plan	Updated to generic "tax incentives" and added "to the extent practical." Combined former Action E-8 and E-9 into one action item.	Consensus reached with noted modifications. The Board encourages examining mechanisms to promote investments specifically focused on economic development. This can include a number of vehicles to be debated and chosen based upon the specific outcome desired.
	Action CE-9.	Idaho should adopt international building codes on a three-year cycle as a minimum for building energy efficiency standards and should provide technical and financial assistance to local jurisdictions for implementation and enforcement.	Unchanged from 2007 Plan		Deleted due to ongoing challenges with informational and educational efforts regarding the adoption of the 2009 international building code.

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	Action CE-10.	<p>State Government will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Demonstrate leadership by promoting energy efficiency, energy efficient products, use of renewable energy and fostering emerging technologies by increasing energy efficiency in all facets of State government; ii. Ensure that public facility procurement rules provide appropriate incentives to allow full implementation of cost-effective energy efficiency and small-scale generation at public facilities; iii. Collaborate with utilities, regulators, legislators and other impacted stakeholders to advance energy efficiency in all sectors of Idaho's economy; iv. Work to identify and address all barriers and disincentives to increased acquisition of energy conservation and efficiency; and v. Educate government agencies, the private sector and the public about the benefits and means to implement energy efficiency. 	Unchanged from 2007 Plan		Consensus reached as amended.
ENERGY FACILITY SITING					
Policy #10		<p><i>The Committee reiterates the recommendation from the 2007 Plan that Idaho state agencies play a role in providing technical assistance to support local energy facility siting decisions and that local jurisdictions make a reasonable effort to hear testimony about the impact of proposed energy facilities from citizens and businesses in neighboring jurisdictions.</i></p>	Updated from 2007 Plan	Updated the entire Energy Facility Siting section to be legally in line with Energy Facility Site Advisory Act.	Consensus reached. It was noted that in land use contexts this allows neighboring counties to have input into facility siting. Not all local municipalities are the same, so this helps standardize the efforts. This policy highlights a guiding philosophy, what is valued and important.

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	Action S-1.	The Office of Energy Resources should ensure local officials are aware of the Act and the opportunity to establish Energy Facility Site Advisory Teams to provide technical assistance when requested by local jurisdictions.	Updated from 2007 Plan	Added to provide use of the Energy Facility Site Advisory Act and the OER's role.	Consensus reached.
	Action S-2.	Sponsors of new transmission line projects in Idaho should consider adopting best practices from the siting of other transmission lines in the Western Interconnection.	Updated from 2007 Plan	Formerly discussed generating facilities of 50 MW or larger.	Consensus reached. It is important to highlight transmission as well as energy production facilities. Provides a more holistic perspective of energy development and recognizes that expertise exists in this area.

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT					
Policy #11		<i>Pursue regional energy dialogue</i> Examine the potential of developing a regional energy roundtable with neighboring states, with the goals of pursuing common <i>energy market economic development</i> interests and that mitigating-managing energy-related policy risk and enhance economic	New Recommendation	This is a new section.	Consensus reached with noted modifications.
Policy #12		<i>Continue to promote energy-related jobs and career opportunities for Idaho citizens.</i>	New Recommendation	This is a new section.	Consensus reached with noted modifications.
	Action ED-1.	Continue to provide monies for The Workforce Development Training Fund.	New Recommendation	This recommendation is in line with the Dept. of Commerce Project 60.	Deleted. Not energy related.
	Action ED-2.	Encourage a broader engagement with the Center for Advanced Energy Studies to <i>advance</i> promote to in providing- assistance in encouraging energy related technology commercialization, <i>efficiency, and research and deployment.</i>	New Recommendation	This is in line with existing recommendation T-5 (specifically regarding commercialization) as well as Commerce Project 60. It was also a recommendation approved by the ISEA Board from the Economic Development and Finance Task Force	Consensus reached with noted modifications.
ENERGY EDUCATION & OUTREACH					

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Policy #13		Idaho should raise the profile awareness of energy challenges and opportunities in Idaho within state-government through education and outreach. and provide additional resources to oversee and promote implementation of the recommendations of this Energy Plan.	Unchanged from 2007 Plan	New section but this recommendation was in the original Plan.	Consensus reached with noted modifications. The Board noted that the state should figure out how to do this with existing state agencies and authorities first rather than creating new entities. Insure that this is coherent with state agency policy. People need the tools and knowledge to debate decisions, and that requires education and awareness.
	Action EE-1.	Request that the Idaho Strategic Energy Alliance expand its role in energy education in the state through workshops, public outreach and publications.	New Recommendation	New recommendation	Deleted; combined with EE-3
	Action EE-2.	Recommend and incentivize Encourage public schools to provide courses or workshops on energy systems, renewable energy technologies, issues, and approaches. and energy solutions in the future.	New Recommendation		Consensus reached with noted modifications.
	Action EE-3.	The Office of Energy Resources, including the Idaho Strategic Energy Alliance , should engage in public outreach and education and work with Idaho energy stakeholders to promote a reliable, diverse, cost-effective and environmentally-sound energy system for the benefit of Idaho citizens and businesses.	Unchanged from 2007 Plan	(Only updated reference regarding the Energy Division to the OER)	Consensus reached with noted modifications; combined with former EE-1.
	Action EE-4.	The Office of Energy Resources and PUC should will report to the Legislature every two years as requested on the progress of Idaho state agencies, energy providers and energy consumers in implementing the recommendations in this Energy Plan.	Unchanged from 2007 Plan	(Only updated reference regarding the Energy Division to the OER)	Consensus reached with noted modifications.

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	Action EE-5.	The Interim Committee recommends that the Legislature revisit this Energy Plan and develop a process and approach to continually update data and assess opportunities and risks and develop new recommendations on a yearly basis and a perform a complete revision of the Plan on at least a five year basis. cycle.	Unchanged from 2007 Plan		Consensus reached with noted modifications. It was noted that energy issues are moving very quickly. A five year review is simply inadequate. A process should be developed to address this.