



NDARE

North Dakota Alliance for Renewable Energy, Inc.



**POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS
AND
2015 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**



A primary policy objective for NDARE is to secure and expand state funding for renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The Resources Trust Fund (RTF), which was approved by voters as a constitutional measure in 1990, is formally dedicated to both water projects and energy conservation and efficiency. For the first time since the fund was approved by voters, the 2013 North Dakota legislature dedicated \$3 million in RTF funding for the Renewable Energy Program and \$1.2 million for a new energy conservation grant program.

Legislative forecasts for the 2015-17 biennium project RTF revenue of \$1.03 billion. NDARE's proposes to dedicate 2.5 percent of that revenue toward renewable energy and energy efficiency programs and projects in the state. NDARE members appreciate the contribution of water projects to our state's well-being, but we also recognize the importance of energy efficiency and renewable energy development to our state's economy and believe the RTF should serve both purposes.

NDARE supports the continued and expanded use of the Resources Trust Fund for energy efficiency and renewable energy activities of benefit to North Dakotans:

- NDARE strongly supports the continuing \$3 million appropriation to the Renewable Energy Fund.
- NDARE strongly supports increasing the continuing appropriation to the Energy Conservation Grant Program to \$2.5 million per biennium.
- NDARE also supports dedicating \$10 million for a variety of energy efficiency and renewable energy education, outreach and demonstration programs, to be administered by the North Dakota Department of Commerce, including but not limited to:
 - ◇ Energy Education/Technical Assistance
 - ◇ Utility Rebate Programs and other incentives for residential and commercial energy efficiency and renewable energy
 - ◇ Public Building Energy Use Monitoring System
 - ◇ Incentives for alternative fuel vehicle infrastructure development
 - ◇ Program personnel

NDARE supports dedicating \$10 million in additional funding from either the general fund or the Resources Trust Fund to support community action weatherization programs, including revising state-level program rules to provide flexibility that can help cover “gap” funding for program applicants that fall outside of the federal low-income requirements for assistance.

NDARE supports a competitive wind property tax structure that allows for the robust development of our wind energy resource and provides adequate revenue for local governments.

NDARE supports strengthening the State Facility Energy Improvement Program to require tracking of energy use in public buildings, including the University System.

NDARE supports the continuation and possible expansion of tax incentives for geothermal, solar, biomass and small wind installations, and to ensure that each of the credits are available on the state income tax form.

NDARE supports the addition of energy efficiency and energy consumer representation on the North Dakota EmPower Commission.

