

## Energy Sense - For Families and Businesses

Hawai'i County's residents, businesses and government spent an estimated \$750 million in 2007 on fossil fuel. This spending was evenly split between the generation of electrical energy and energy used for transportation. Reducing this amount by just 5% would leave \$75 million in our local economy. As the price of oil rises, so do the benefits of reducing the island's dependence on fossil fuel. The opportunities for savings are significant.

Working together, the County of Hawai'i Department of Research and Development along with experts throughout the State, The Kohala Center (TKC) and the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies at Yale University developed a comprehensive set of energy recommendations for the Island of Hawai'i. Completed in October 2008, the plan is known as the Hawai'i Island Energy Sustainability Plan (HCSEP). The plan recommendations, based on existing technology, provide a pathway for Hawai'i Island to transition to greater energy self-sufficiency. The aggregate impact of implementing the energy plan recommendations would be a reduction in fossil fuels from supplying **69%** of Hawai'i Island's energy needs (excluding jet fuel) to supplying just **31%** by 2030. As clean energy technologies improve over time, further reduction in the island's dependency on fossil fuels should occur.

The energy plan recommendations outline a viable selection of energy efficiency and renewable energy options for Hawai'i Island to achieve this goal. Focusing first on citizen education and community engagement to support long-term implementation of the County's energy plan. According to the plan recommendations, one of the highest impact actions that the County government can take to meet its energy goals is distributing information to residents on compact fluorescent light bulbs, solar water heaters, life-cycle costing, mass transit and Energy Star appliances. County residents can realize both financial savings and a reduction in the use of fossil fuel by making informed energy choices.

With the right information, residents, businesses and government can make energy decisions that promote the sustained health and prosperity of families, communities and Hawai'i Island. The following articles and links to other resources are provided as an initial start to move forward with achieving the County's goal of great energy self-sufficiency.

- **Life-Cycle Costs** - Investments in solar water heaters and photovoltaic systems can be costly, but the payback period can be shortened with federal, state and county tax credits. Read the article on Payback Time at <http://dev.hawaiicountyrandd.net/energy/downloads/Payback%20Time.pdf/view>.
- **Solar Electric Systems for the Home** - Learn about how one Waimea family put the power of the sun to work for them at

<http://dev.hawaiicountyrandd.net/energy/downloads/Home%20Photovoltaic%20System.pdf/view>.

- **Hawai`i Electric Light Company's (HELCO) Website** - The site features a home energy check that includes energy saving tips tailored for household energy use and energy fact sheet.  
<http://www.helcohi.com/portal/site/helco>.
- **HELCO's Energy Tips and Choices** - Provides a guide to an energy-efficient home and an overview of renewable energy sources on the island.  
<http://www.helcohi.com/vcmcontent/StaticFiles/pdf/Energy-Tips-&-Choices-2008-Web.pdf>.
- **Hele on Bus** - The County of Hawai`i Mass Transit Agency's overview of the island's public transportation system and schedules. To learn more visit their website at [http://co.hawaii.hi.us/mass\\_transit/transit\\_main.htm](http://co.hawaii.hi.us/mass_transit/transit_main.htm).

### **Energy-Related Policies, Agreements and Legislation**

- **The Hawai`i-Department of Energy Clean Energy Initiative** - A cooperative agreement between the US Department of Energy, the State of Hawai`i and Hawaiian Electric Industries to work together to achieve the statewide goal of 70% renewable sources of energy by year 2030.  
<http://hawaii.gov/dbedt/info/energy/hcei/>
- **Energy Agreement Among the State of Hawai`i, Division of Consumer Advocacy of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, and the Hawaiian Electric Light Companies** - This agreement signed by the Governor, the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, the Consumer Advocate and Hawaiian Electric Industries to work toward replacing fossil fuels with indigenously produced renewable energy and enhanced energy efficiency.  
<http://hawaii.gov/dcca/areas/dca/HCEI/HCEI%20Agreement.pdf>.
- **Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 Federal Tax Credits for Energy Efficiency** - This site provides current federal tax credit information relating to energy efficiency for homeowner, builders, and owners of commercial building owners.  
[http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products.pr\\_tax\\_credits](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products.pr_tax_credits).
- **County of Hawai`i Solar Water Heater Real Property Tax Credit** - The County of Hawai`i provides a \$300 credit on homeowners' real property tax for solar water systems installed after January 1, 2008. For more information visit  
<http://www.hawaiipropertytax.com/pdf/SOLAR%20WATER%20HEAT>

[ER%20TAX%20CREDIT.pdf](#).

- **Consumer Tax Incentives for Home Heating and Cooling Equipment** - Compiled by the Tax Incentives Assistance Project - a coalition of public interest non-profit groups and government agencies - this site provides information and links to federal income tax incentives for energy efficiency products. <http://www.energytaxincentives.org/consumers/heating-cooling.php>.

**Global Warming** - "Global warming is the biggest environmental threat facing the planet today, and it's getting worse," contend experts from the Environmental Defense Action Fund (EDF). Learn more about EDF's **Green Energy Agenda for 2009** at <http://edf.org/page.cfm?tagID=29336>.

**Go Green with Your Personal Computer** - Strategies to reduce your global footprint with your personal computer. To learn more visit [http://development.climatesaverscomputing.org/component/option,com\\_webinar/Itemid,393/lang,en/task,webinar/](http://development.climatesaverscomputing.org/component/option,com_webinar/Itemid,393/lang,en/task,webinar/).

**Energy Related Newsletters** - Subscribe to energy-related newsletters by visiting the websites below:

- **Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) Network News** - <http://www.eere.energy.gov/news/enn.cfm>.
- **Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC)** - <http://visitor.constantcontact.com/email.jsp?m=1101486440047>.
- **Alliance to Save Energy (ASE)** - <http://www.ase.org/section/audience/efficiency>.
- **Renewable Energy Focus (e-newsletter)** - <http://www.renewableenergyfocus.com/>