



Policy Review – Renewable Energy

As part of our **3e CertificationSM** program, our goal is to raise awareness of the important issues facing America in terms of energy, the economy, and the environment, and how they are intertwined. Never before in our history have these come together to play such a crucial role in our society. We hear a great deal of commentary, promises, and sound bites, but we don't see enough action. That is the purpose of this policy paper – to get our message in front of the people that we feel can truly make a difference.

Unfortunately, the issues related to energy in this country have become so politicized that the real message has gotten lost. Energy is not a topic that belongs only to one party or the other, but rather to everyone. What we see in the press lately is tabloid reporting on the spats and charges from one side against the other, trying to place blame, but never offering solid, sustainable solutions to our very real problems. We constantly hear officials telling us that we **MUST** find new resources when it comes to renewable energy, and we hear promises of new green jobs. The reality is that when someone does have a program that is environmentally protective, and can produce good, clean renewable energy, the walls suddenly appear and the process slams to a halt.

We will not try to speak for everyone, but instead offer information about our program, as well as some suggestions that we feel should be accepted by everyone. We aren't going to weigh in on the controversial issues that tend to bog down the progress of establishing a real energy policy in this country. In fact, on a federal basis, we only need a few things to allow our programs, and others that have real ideas on what we can do immediately to solve our energy issues. Our focus will be on state and local activities, where real change can be made in real time.

Fast-tracking

One of the most important actions that can be taken to open up creative and expansive technologies, allowing businesses to get their solutions to the marketplace quicker, is to fast-track the process, bypassing the usual red tape and bureaucratic entanglement. As an example, a co-op was formed with school districts and municipalities in Illinois, becoming part of the ownership of a wind farm in the central part of the state. This process originally began back in 2006, and almost 4 years later, they still don't have much more than a funding commitment. The project has been on hold while the state legislature undergoes the slow process of enacting bills related to net metering.

We are proposing a program in which the governor and legislators of each state would create a program for fast-tracking of any permits, legislation, documentation, and related activities that deal with moving renewable energy programs forward. Our position is that if any elected officials declare the importance of these renewable energy projects, then they should also be willing to help open the doors and remove the roadblocks that are preventing legitimate renewable energy programs from seeing the light of day.

Expanding funding options

A very difficult part of the process to develop new sources of energy deals with the funding issue. While there are many large companies that have the available resources as part of their ongoing research and development, we see more of the new and innovative solutions that come from individuals or small companies. We have actively searched for funding through private investors, venture capitalists, angel investors, and grants from private, state, and federal programs. Many of the federal sources such as stimulus funds have already been allocated, and in many cases, go to projects that are highly speculative, and for many create no jobs whatsoever.

Our request is to have these programs opened to everyone, and not just those that are able to gain political favor. We fully understand the volume and scope of spreading the funds over so many qualified activities, but when information is released on some of these projects to the public, the program funding has already been spoken for. This allows for an unfair advantage for those groups or individuals that have unique access to officials, often keeping real, sustainable solutions from being developed and brought to the market. All we want is to have renewable energy programs treated with the level of importance that we are originally promised.

Local assistance

One of the aspects of many alternative and renewable energy programs is the focus on local involvement. Like our Firebird V-3™ Vortex Combustion System, these programs are typically smaller in scale, and are capable of helping those communities that otherwise would have to share in the larger energy production programs. Many if not most of these large-scale energy production facilities run into problems of efficiency, and take years to be implemented. These facilities are also generally owned by large corporations, which present a problem for the community when the parent company faces financial problems and shuts down, as happened in Robbins, Illinois. This can be devastating for a small, rural community. Smaller, tailored solutions such as our Developer Program with local ownership should be considered.

Our solution would be able to offer communities the opportunity to control their own energy programs that are both cost effective and scalable. In the renewable energy arena, combustion-based energy production is the lowest cost method available. Other solutions, while serving a great benefit, often don't have the rapid return on investment that we can offer. We have always suggested a blended energy policy that would take advantage of various programs, such as wind, solar, our combustion technologies. Other energy sources, such as biofuels and anaerobic digestion, offer market-specific solutions that can't be addressed with other programs.

What we can offer

Simply put, we provide a pollution-free combustion source for energy recovery systems using alternative and renewable fuel sources. This technology was originally designed for disposing of hazardous and infectious waste, and we have been able to enhance and upgrade many of the features, while leaving the basic patented process intact. Using a combustion source in an energy recapture system has been around for decades, with jet engines, coal fired, wood burning, or natural gas furnaces used as the combustion sources. Even grate style incinerators and combustors have been used to provide the high heat that is required for this process.

In addition to our small footprint and modular design, our solution is capable of handling a variety of fuel sources, including municipal solid waste, hazardous, medical / infectious waste, active or closed landfills, woody biomass, agricultural waste, and even tire disposal. No other technology available today can match the throughput efficiency and the significant energy output that ours can. Since this technology is derived from decades-old methods, there is no lengthy development period, and systems could be in place and fully functioning within 6 months from the time an order is placed. Each system is fully capable of generating as much as 6 MW of clean electricity, at a fraction of the cost of other renewable energy systems.

America needs real leadership, and the candidate or elected official that finally steps up to the plate and offers meaningful dialogue about our energy needs, will find that voters will respond more to straightforward talking and not the tired old statements and promises. We need your help. We need to Energize America Now!

Jim VanNatta
Executive Director
American Alternative Energy Group

