



SERC leads on energy element

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To support the recently released draft energy element of Humboldt County's General Plan Update, Humboldt State University's Schatz Energy Research Center produced a report that analyzes the region's current and historical energy supply and use; projects future energy needs; and inventories existing generation and transmission facilities, local energy resources and promising new technologies.

The draft, released on Aug. 5, was developed by the Redwood Coast Energy Authority.

As part of a consulting team led by Planwest Partners of Arcata and including the Center for Environmental Economic Development, Net Gain and the engineering firm of Winzler and Kelly, SERC provided the lead technical expertise.

The team spent six months gathering information, researching options, and compiling public input.

The draft is available from RCEA's Web site at www.redwoodenergy.org.

Additional public comment will take place until Thursday, Sept. 8. That day, a public hearing will also be held from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Redwood Coast Energy Resource Center, 517 5th St., Eureka.

Ultimately, a final version will be provided to the county for inclusion in its general plan update.

RCEA Executive Director David Boyd said, "It's the most in-depth analysis of Humboldt County's energy use ever produced, and it was instrumental in identifying the key constraints and opportunities that are addressed by the Energy Element."

According to Jim Zoellick, senior research engineer at SERC and lead author of the technical background report, the analysis found that Humboldt County faces numerous constraints due to its isolated location.

The report also cited many opportunities, including "a potential wealth of local renewable energy resources, a strong interest in developing local energy resources, and a desire to make wise and efficient use of energy resources and to be as energy self-reliant as possible.

More information about the Schatz Energy Research Center is available at www.humboldt.edu/~serc.

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