

## Humboldt State University News

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### **Press Releases: Study Probes Humboldt Energy Use**

To support the recently released draft Energy Element of Humboldt County's General Plan Update, Humboldt State University's Schatz Energy Research Center (SERC) 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 (RCEA).

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 website – [www.redwoodenergy.org](http://www.redwoodenergy.org) – and additional public comment is invited 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. It 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."

"Humboldt County is known for its strong independent spirit," the report states, "and that spirit extends to the area of energy supply and demand. Opportunities for the development of sustainable energy resources in the county include: the development of local renewable energy resources and distributed generation, increased energy efficiency efforts, the development and implementation of county-wide strategic energy planning, local management of energy supplies and services, and upgrades of energy transmission facilities."

Zoellick said, "We put our heart and soul into this project. This type of work is our passion, and this particular project is important to the long-term health and sustainability of our very own community. It was truly satisfying to be involved in such an important local project."

More information about the Schatz Energy Research Center is available at its web site: [www.humboldt.edu/~serc](http://www.humboldt.edu/~serc) .

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Background links:

Redwood Coast Energy Authority news release, including links to the draft Energy Element and the Background Technical Report: [www.redwoodenergy.org/newsdetail.asp?ID=29](http://www.redwoodenergy.org/newsdetail.asp?ID=29).

Schatz Energy Research Center: [www.humboldt.edu/~serc](http://www.humboldt.edu/~serc).

**Note to editors and news directors:** A diagram depicting the distribution of energy sources in Humboldt County is available from Humboldt State News Online's image archive at [news.humboldt.edu/gallery.phtml](http://news.humboldt.edu/gallery.phtml) or via this direct link: <http://tinyurl.com/92ow7>. The image comes from the draft Energy Element's technical report.

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