

**Senator Patricia W. Jones** proposes the following substitute bill:

**JOINT RESOLUTION - RENEWABLE ENERGY**

**SYSTEM**

2009 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Patricia W. Jones**

House Sponsor: Rebecca Chavez-Houck

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This joint resolution of the Legislature addresses renewable energy systems.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

▶ directs the State Energy Program to assess the need for model wind, solar, and geothermal ordinances at the local government level and to report to the Legislature

on its process for assessing the need;

▶ directs the State Energy Program to help develop model ordinances for renewable energy; and

▶ directs that a copy of the resolution be sent to the State Energy Program.

**Special Clauses:**

None

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*Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

WHEREAS, the state has established a target of 20 percent renewable energy electricity generation by the year 2025;

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the state to encourage the development of independent



26 and qualifying power production and cogeneration facilities, to promote a diverse array of  
27 economical and sustainable energy resources in an environmentally acceptable manner, and to  
28 conserve our finite and expensive energy resources and provide for their most efficient and  
29 economic utilization;

30 WHEREAS, the state wishes to provide clarity to the process of developing renewable  
31 energy projects and to reduce the bureaucratic and permitting burden for Utah residents,  
32 businesses, and local governments in developing renewable energy;

33 WHEREAS, the state finds that wind, geothermal, and solar energy are abundant,  
34 renewable, and non-polluting energy resources;

35 WHEREAS, wind, geothermal, and solar energy systems can help to offset growing  
36 energy and peak power demands;

37 WHEREAS, the state wishes to advance the use of wind, geothermal, and solar energy  
38 by all of its citizens, businesses, and industries;

39 WHEREAS, properly designed renewable energy installation ordinances can help  
40 communities facilitate greater access to wind, geothermal, and solar energy;

41 WHEREAS, it is the goal of the state to develop wind, geothermal, and solar power,  
42 while preserving farmlands and agricultural enterprises and adjoining residential and  
43 commercial developments as compatible adjoining uses, and the public health, safety, and  
44 general welfare will be protected and promoted by this ordinance;

45 WHEREAS, the state recognizes that the renewable energy industry is growing and can  
46 continue to benefit the state economically, and efforts to streamline renewable energy  
47 installations encourages economic development in the state;

48 WHEREAS, solar working groups meet quarterly throughout the state as administered  
49 by the State Energy Program; and

50 WHEREAS, geothermal working groups meet annually throughout the state as  
51 administered by the State Energy Program:

52 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the State Energy Program be directed to  
53 assess the need for a model solar ordinance through a consensus building stakeholder process  
54 to include, if considered useful, the development of a model solar ordinance.

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Energy Program be directed to report the  
56 findings of the consensus building stakeholder process and any resulting model solar ordinance

57 to the Legislature no later than November 30, 2009.

58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Energy Program be directed to assess the  
59 need for a geothermal ordinance through a consensus building stakeholder process to include,  
60 if considered useful, the development of a model geothermal ordinance.

61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Energy Program be directed to report the  
62 findings of the consensus building stakeholder process to the Legislature no later than  
63 November 30, 2009.

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this joint resolution be sent to the State  
65 Energy Program.

66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Energy Program be directed to consult  
67 and work cooperatively with representatives of municipal governments and other interested  
68 parties to develop model ordinances relating to wind and other renewable energy for  
69 municipalities to consider adopting as they consider appropriate for their jurisdictions.

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**S.J.R. 1 1st Sub. (Green) - Joint Resolution - Renewable Energy System**

**Fiscal Note**

2009 General Session

State of Utah

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**State Impact**

Enactment of this bill will not require additional appropriations.

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**Individual, Business and/or Local Impact**

Enactment of this bill likely will not result in direct, measurable costs and/or benefits for individuals, businesses, or local governments.

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