

Hawaii's 100% Renewable Energy Goal

If the government concentrated as much effort on developing renewable energy efficient neighborhoods, as they do on low income housing, maybe then Hawaii could reach it's 100% renewable energy goal. Let's call this project REEN, which stands for renewable energy efficient neighborhoods.

In a REEN neighborhood, there would be a renewable energy source for each house. For example, each house would be equipped with solar panels, solar water heaters, and DC-Powered household appliances. Each neighborhood could include a fitness center where the exercise bikes double as bicycle generators that could be used to power the street lights at night. Also, the streets of the REEN neighborhood would only allow electric powered vehicles and bicycles, with parking outside of the neighborhood for gas powered vehicles.

The cost to create REEN would be very high. A few ways we could get the money is by presenting the ideas to the housing authorities and the state representatives to see how we could possibly get the money.

Convincing people to live in a REEN neighborhood will take some type of incentive for them. Some of the incentives offered could be reduced deposit for rentals and no money down for purchases. Also, longer lease and longer mortgage payment terms. Instead of one year leases, they could be offered a minimum two year option. The mortgage loan terms could be extended by 5 to 10 years, since living in an environmentally safer neighborhood should overall increase the health benefits.

Our generation should begin doing what is within our means to do now. Some suggestions of what we can do is inform ourselves with the requirements to build such a neighborhood. Familiarize ourselves with the departments responsible for developing

neighborhoods and attend government meetings concerning renewable energy topics. Ask questions and get answers.

Physically we can do our part to prepare Hawaii for the next phase of energy by performing age appropriate solutions such as, informing others with new information, recycling and cutting down on pollution by cleaning up trash.

As a young person in Hawaii today, I can start by introducing my ideas to the proper authorities in the energy and housing task force. Also, we as the leaders of the future generation of Hawaii can educate ourselves by getting involved, staying in school and taking the necessary courses to aid us in our endeavor.

In conclusion, by starting now with the small things that are within our capability we should have faith that our visions will become a reality. I believe that my ideas are realistic. Therefore, I intend to strive to make them a reality.