

C-BED & Related Legislation
From: House Research Act Summary

<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hrd/as/85/as136.html>

Chapter: 136 - Next Generation Energy Bill (SF 145)

Session: 2007 Regular Session

Topic: Energy

Analyst: Bob Eleff

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See also: Chapter 3, SF 4 (RES) <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hrd/as/85/as003.html>

Ch. 136, Article 4: C-BED and Related Issues

[216B.1612] Community-based energy development; tariff.

Subd. 1. Tariff establishment. Specifies that the tariff established pertains to renewable energy projects, not just wind energy projects.

Subd. 2. Definitions. Allows a rural electric cooperative, generation and transmission cooperative, and political subdivision, including a municipal electric utility or a municipal power agency, to be a qualified community-based energy development (C-BED) project owner on behalf of and at the request of a member distribution utility. "Renewable" means solar, wind, hydropower, hydrogen and biomass, including municipal solid waste and refuse-derived fuel. Wind projects consisting of more than two turbines may not have a single qualifying owner own more than 15 percent of the project. For a wind energy C-BED project, a public entity, except for a municipal utility, may own more than 15 percent of a project.

Subd. 3. Tariff rate. Removes the 2.7 cents per kWh cap in current law.

Subd. 4. Utilities to offer tariff. Requires utilities to file a C-BED tariff with the Public Utilities Commission by December 1, 2007.

Subd. 5. Priority for C-BED projects. Requires a utility subject to a renewable energy standard under section 216B.1691 to take reasonable steps to ascertain whether any C-BED projects could contribute toward fulfilling the standard.

A municipal power agency or generation and transmission cooperative must provide notice to its distribution utilities that they may propose C-BED projects for consideration.

Subd. 7. Other C-BED tariff issues. Allows joint ventures for a renewable, not just wind, C-BED project.

Subd. 8. Community energy partnerships. Allows and encourages utilities and independent power producers to participate in C-BED projects.

[216B.1681] Curtailment payments. Requires the commission to assess whether utilities are unduly discriminating among different project ownership structures in making curtailment payments to wind projects, and submit a report on its findings to the legislature by January 15, 2008.

[216B.1691] Renewable energy objectives. Subd. 7....Xcel Energy must file a plan with the commission before March 1, 2008, explaining how it will meet its renewable energy standard obligation, including a proposed schedule of purchases from C-BED and non C-BED projects. The commission must approve such a plan, which Xcel must update biennially, unless it determines that the plan is not in the public interest.