



TOMPKINS COUNTY  
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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**EMC RESOLUTION NO. 2-2003 – RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF S3055, NET METERING LEGISLATION FOR NEW YORK STATE**

WHEREAS, In its “Climate Change 2001” report, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change found increasing evidence of global warming and the negative consequences of greenhouse gases globally, including climate change, sea level rise, loss of biodiversity, stratospheric ozone depletion, desertification, and declines in freshwater availability and air quality; and

WHEREAS, Nationally, the electricity industry is the largest single source of greenhouse gas emissions, generating electricity from fossil fuels which contribute carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and mercury into the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, Alternatives to fossil fuel generation, such as solar, wind, and biomass, are becoming increasingly viable, and would help to significantly reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from electricity generation; and

WHEREAS, “Net metering” refers to the method of keeping track of the electric energy consumed and produced at a home, business, or institution that has its own renewable energy source and under which excess electricity produced by the home, business, or institution will spin the existing electric meter backwards, effectively crediting the generator for electricity contributed to the grid; and

WHEREAS, Current New York law (Public Service Law section 66-j) requires net metering only for small (less than 10kw) solar installations in a residence or commercial establishment; and

WHEREAS, Governor Pataki supported the use of net-metering for farm biomass and has been promoting the use of solar-generated electricity in government buildings and schools in New York State, and to this end the NYSERDA offers incentives for such installations; and

WHEREAS, In 2001 Tompkins County installed a 146 kw photovoltaic system on the Tompkins County Public Library and is unable to benefit from current law; and

WHEREAS, Current New York State law, which restricts the application of net metering to small systems, is out of step with the Governor’s initiative and fails to provide enough impetus to the installation of alternative energy systems of a size that could significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, In contrast to S2054 and S3594, Senate Bill 3055 would specifically expand net metering to wind systems and wind/solar hybrid systems up to 250 kw, and solar installations up to 1000 kw (up from the current 10 kw), and would increase the limits on the amount of metered electricity that utilities have to purchase from one tenth of a percent to one percent of the utility's electric demand, providing incentives for the development of alternative energy systems;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council urges the leadership of the State Senate to report S3055 out of the Energy and Telecommunications Committee, put it on the agenda, and allow a full vote to pass the bill in the State Senate.

Date: June 11, 2003  
Passed Unanimously