

Act 174

Energy Development Improvement Act—to make the efficient use of energy, provide for the development of renewable energy resources, and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.

- Directs towns and regional planning commissions to engage in renewable energy and energy conservation planning consistent with the State’s Comprehensive Energy Plan and greenhouse gas pollution reduction goals to receive determination of energy compliance.
- Requires CGP applications to be provided to various state agencies and local government officials and to be recorded in local land records
- Requires the PSB to issue rules on aesthetic mitigation and decommissioning by 12/15/16
- Requires new wind facilities with 4 or more turbines to install radar activated lights upon approval by the FAA
- Requires the PSB to issue a new wind sound standards rule by 7/1/17
- Creates a Standard Offer pilot program to encourage renewable projects in “preferred locations” and requires the PSB to issue a report on the program as a whole by 1/15/18.
- Requires the PSB to simplify the application and review process to encourage group net metering systems at least 50% customer ownership
- Creates an Access to the Public Service Board Working Group to review processes for citizen participation in PSB proceedings and requires Group to submit recommendations to the Legislature by 12/15/16.