



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

**Resolution 2019-04** Identifying on-farm renewable energy development/use & soil health practice adoption as high priority goals

**SPONSOR CD:** Whatcom and Spokane Conservation Districts

**AREA:**  NW  SW  NC  SC  NE  SE

**RESOLUTION TYPE:**

- Policy
- Position Statement
- Recognition
- Study

**RESOLUTION ACTION AGENCY**

- WACD
- WSCC
- OTHER STAGE AGENCY \_\_\_\_\_
- NRCS
- NACD
- NON-STATE/FEDERAL PARTNER \_\_\_\_\_

**BACKGROUND/PROBLEM STATEMENT:** To successfully conserve renewable natural resources as is our statutory directive under RCW 89.08.220, there must be good stewards of the land with a profitable business model that sustains them into the future. A multi-pronged solution is needed that will help farmers improve their bottom-line by reducing their costs, increase their productivity, or both.

The on-farm development and use of renewable resources such as wind, solar, biogas, biofuels can help the farmer's bottom line by reducing reliance upon costly fossil fuels. Productivity has been shown to improve as the level of organic matter (carbon-based) increases in the soil. There are also valuable environmental benefits to be gained from farmers producing and using renewable energy and building soil health. These could become valuable in a future environmental services marketplace so long as the practices remain voluntary.

WACD does not presently have a clear position regarding on-farm energy development and use or for the sequestration of carbon through improved soil health. It must have one as it must be at the table advancing voluntary, incentive-based solutions including the provision of technical and financial support for the development and use on-farm renewable energy source and improving soil health.



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**RESOLUTION LANGUAGE**

The Washington Association of Conservation Districts supports increased adoption of soil health systems as well as the development and use of renewable energy sources by farmers and other landowners within the State of Washington. The WACD Board, Executive Director and Lobbyist shall participate in discussions likely to lead to legislation or WSCC funding packages to ensure that conservation districts are integral to the delivery of technical and financial assistance, on a voluntary basis, implement soil health practices; and develop and use on-farm renewable energy sources.

**TYPE OF TEXT OF RESOLUTION**

- Technical (changes address grammar, punctuation, sentence flow and makes **NO** substantive change(s) to the existing policy.
- Substantive change to existing policy. If in doubt, check the box.
- New policy.

**IS THERE A BUDGET IMPLICATION TO IMPLEMENT THE POLICY?**

- NO**
- YES** (briefly explain):