

# DPD

## Director's Rule 11-2011

<b>Applicant:</b>  City of Seattle Department of Planning and Development	<b>Page</b>  1 of 2	<b>Supersedes:</b>  N/A
	<b>Publication:</b>  6/9/2011	<b>Effective:</b>  7/14/2011
<b>Subject:</b>  Alternate Means of Compliance to Energy Code Requirements for On-Site Renewable Energy Systems	<b>Code and Section Reference:</b>  Seattle Energy Code Section 1631	
	<b>Type of Rule:</b>  Code Interpretation	
	<b>Ordinance Authority:</b>  SMC 3.06.040	
<b>Index:</b>  Energy – Technical Requirements Energy Code	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Date</b>
	(Signature on file) Diane M. Sugimura, Director	7/13/2011

### 1. BACKGROUND

Section 1631 of the Energy Code requires that the Director of DPD develop and adopt by rule one or more alternate means of compliance with Chapter 16, On-Site Renewable Energy Systems, and states that:

“Each alternate means of compliance shall be designed to achieve energy savings that are at least as great as the energy production achieved over the expected life of the building through compliance with Section 1621. Alternate means allowed by rule may include, without limitation, payments or contributions related to off-site renewable energy production.

“On-site renewable energy systems are preferred. This section is intended to ensure that a feasible alternative is available when the nature of a site or project makes on-site renewable energy systems impracticable, without requiring a determination as to

practicality in each case. This section is not intended to authorize any financially more attractive means of compliance for a typical project than compliance with Section 1621, taking into account expected costs and benefits of each option over the expected life of the building, and without regard to any subsidies that may be available for on-site renewable energy systems.”

## **2. ALTERNATE MEANS OF COMPLIANCE**

The following alternate means of compliance with Section 1631 are allowed.

### **A. Higher Efficiency Equipment.**

Building projects with high-efficiency mechanical equipment where the capacity-weighted equipment efficiency for the total capacity of the space heating and space cooling equipment is a minimum of 1.10 times the corresponding minimum efficiency in Tables 14-1A through 14-1G. The minimum efficiency for this exception to Chapter 16 shall be in excess of that required elsewhere in the Energy Code such as for Section 1433 and Section 1132.2.

### **B. Purchase of Renewable Electricity.**

Purchase of renewable electricity products complying with the Green-e Energy National Standard for Renewable Electricity Products of at least:

70 kWh/ft<sup>2</sup> of conditioned space for building permit applications submitted by June 30, 2012, and

125 kWh/ft<sup>2</sup> of conditioned space for building permit applications submitted on July 1, 2012 and later.

The entire amount of renewable electricity products shall be purchased, paid in full, and documentation submitted prior to issuance of the building permit. The purchase agreement shall be nonrefundable.

For further information, see Green-e Energy National Standard for Renewable Electricity Products, Version 1.6, Dec 5, 2008, available from Green-e, c/o Center for Resource Solutions, 1012 Torney Ave., Second Floor, San Francisco, CA 94129, 1- 415-561-2100; [www.green-e.org](http://www.green-e.org)