

LDBP Planning team

Re: my response to the draft LDBP

The draft Local Development Business Plan is a highly laudable document on many levels. It illustrates in detail various technological advances and the processes and means for development of renewable resources and energy efficiency and deployment measures for developing a reliable network of renewable resources and modifications for the optimal use of those resources.

It goes further to explain what tools and strategies could be deployed to effectively build, monitor and measure the success of various strategies that might be selected. It provides a banquet of options of what choices for development exist and how they could be deployed. The plan is recognized as a dynamic program that needs to be used and monitored periodically if not constantly as it is more fully implemented over time.

It is a very strong document for the advocacy for developing renewable resources and could lead to effective policy creation in moving a CCA program forward. It lacks the advocacy of a complete policy statement which selects priorities and a roadmap and timeline that reflects those policy decisions. However, it lays out the clear explication of choices that can be made in creating a thoughtful way forward.

Still whatever this document purports to be it is not a business plan. It does not set out a detailed roadmap for determining resources that will likely be available and what variables exist that may impact the resources that could be used in moving the plan forward. It does not outline the most likely priorities and their timeline for deployment and return on investment. It does not show what would be the choices and risks concomitant with making each with the strongest and most likely return. Where does it outline the "low hanging fruit" that assures the best and highest returns as the program moves forward. Finally, what are the benchmarks and other determinants that illustrate levels of success as intended.

The board is comprised of elected officials who look at budgets as planning documents which they are and may see them as adequate for the needs of the EBCE. However, I would argue that EBCE is first and foremost a business that needs to make its way based on sound business practices, reliable returns on its investments especially as it begins and hopes to enjoy a sound relationship with credit institutions that will play an important role in its success. I cannot believe that this Local Development Business Plan would be adequate to any such creditors as a roadmap towards stability and success.

The Draft LDBP is a great starting point about what choices need to be made. However, as with any business and in accordance with the JPA charter under which the Board and the CCA must operate, it must make the necessary choices and outline the way forward in such a fashion that illustrates clearly expected outcomes as determinants that the business plan can be judged against whether it is or is not successful as a business.

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