



# Memo

Department of Planning & Housing

**TO:** Planning & Zoning Commission  
**FROM:** Sam Perry, Planner  
**DATE:** February 13, 2009  
**SUBJECT:** Renewable Energy Systems Introduction

In the fall of 2008, the City Council referred to staff a request to develop some code provisions to allow solar and wind energy production in residential neighborhoods. This came as a result of City planning staff denying the installation of solar panels in a residential property owner's yard. The decision was based on the discovery that "energy production" was only listed as a permitted land use in industrial zones. The decision was not appealed by the property owner. However, the Department of Planning & Housing has taken a more comprehensive look at these types of installations, which not only involved proposed options for land use policy changes, but also placement, bulk, and orientation considerations.

The attached report is an introduction to the technologies of wind and solar systems and some ways that they might be reviewed and permitted within the city of Ames. This report will hopefully enlighten the Commission in preparation for a future open house.

Also attached are some example photographs (not in Ames) of wind and solar systems within residential settings.

SP\clh  
Attachments

c: Mayor, City Council