

# FIT for the Future

## Feed-In Tariffs (FITs) and their application in the United States

### Strategy workshop

Washington, DC, March 2, 2008

This Workshop is co-hosted by the **World Future Council**, the **Heinrich Böll Foundation\*** and the **Worldwatch Institute** for the purpose of discussing the need and potential for Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) in the United States, possible strategies for promoting FITs, and barriers to FITs that must be overcome on the state and federal levels. The workshop will draw on European experiences with Feed-In Tariffs and will explore the possibilities and potential for FITs and for FIT-RPS hybrid systems in North America, including job creation, economic growth and energy and climate security.

\* This event has been made possible by funding from the European Commission. The European Commission is not responsible for contents of the event.

#### Venue:

Equality Center  
Human Rights Campaign Foundation  
1640 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, Suite 100  
Washington, DC 20036



**9.30 Registration and Breakfast**

**10.00 Opening remarks:** Miguel Mendonca  
(World Future Council)

**Welcome address:** Helga Flores Trejo  
(Heinrich Böll Foundation)

**Key note:** Chris Flavin (Worldwatch Institute)

**10.45 Panel I: Learning from FIT success stories****Central questions:**

▶ What are Feed-In Tariffs and how do they differ from Renewable Portfolio Standards? How have Feed-In Tariffs contributed to the rapid deployment of Renewable Energy in Germany, Spain and France? What are the benefits provided by Feed-In Tariffs to economic growth, energy security, employment, climate change, etc.? How do the German, the Spanish and the French systems differ?

**Speakers:** Janet Sawin (Worldwatch Institute)  
Bernard Chabot (ADEME/France)  
Daniel Argyropoulos  
(German Environment Ministry) (t.b.c.)  
Hugo Lucas Porta (IDAE/Spain)

**Chair:** Bianca Barth (World Future Council)

**12.15 Coffee break (15 min)****12.30 Panel II: Leading states in Canada and the US – practical experience****Central questions:**

▶ What are the technical problems and political barriers to adopting Feed-In legislation in the United States on the state level? What is the current status of FITs/FIT efforts in Ontario, California, Washington and Minnesota? What challenges arose in Michigan after the introduction of FIT legislation there?

**Speakers:** John Geesman  
(former California Energy Commissioner)  
Kathleen Law (State Legislator Michigan, D)  
David Bly (State Legislator Minnesota, D)  
James White (Chelan PUD, Washington) &  
Mike Nelson (Northwest Solar Center, Washington)  
Deb Doncaster  
(Community Power Fund Ontario)

**Chair:** Paul Gipe

**14.00 Lunch break (1 hour)****15.00 Panel III: Feed-In Tariffs in the US – practical solutions and different approaches****Central questions:**

▶ What are the technical problems and constitutional barriers to FITs on the federal level, and how can they be resolved? How can federal legislation interact positively with state legislation? How can we overcome the general opposition to/lack of awareness about FITs in the United States? Do Feed-In Tariffs function well in a deregulated environment? Are Hybrid approaches a possible solution? How could such approaches be designed? What lessons can be drawn from experiences with the EU directive on the promotion of electricity produced from renewable energy sources? How could FITs be designed to encourage investment in dispatchable renewable power and storage to meet base load power requirement?

**Speakers:** Paul Gipe  
James Bradbury  
(Rep. Jay Inslee's office, D-Wash)  
Aaron Peterson (State Legislator Minnesota, D  
and National Caucus of Environmental  
Legislators)

**Chair:** Oliver Schäfer  
(European Renewable Energy Council)

**16.30 Coffee break (15 min)****16.45 Panel IV: Perspectives from the Environmental Community****Central questions:**

▶ What is the perspective of American environmental NGOs on FITs? Is it possible to organize a broad coalition to publicly support FITs at the state and federal levels? What are the political-cultural barriers?

**Speakers:** Alan Noguee (Union of Concerned Scientists)  
Dave Hamilton (Sierra Club)

**Chair:** Roger Peters (Pembina Institute)

**19.00 Dinner  
(by invitation only)**

# Directions to Equality Center

**Human Rights Campaign Foundation  
1640 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, Suite 100  
Washington, DC 20036**

## From Dupont Circle METRO Station

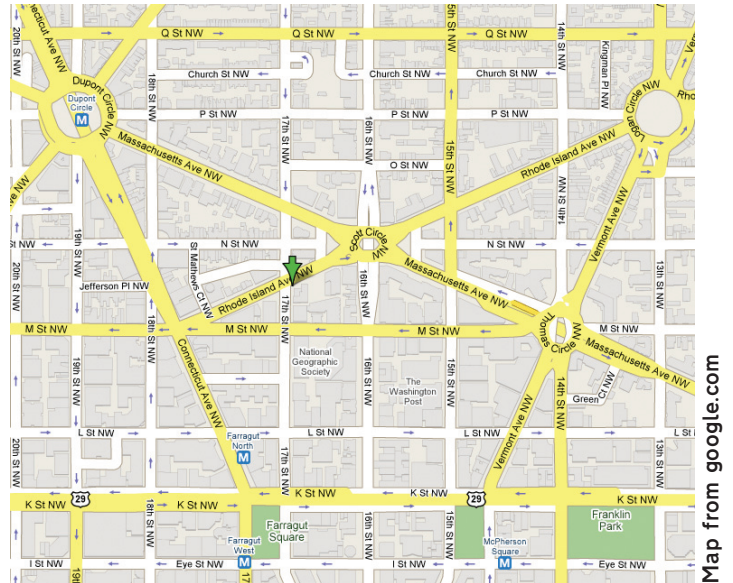
*Location: Connecticut Avenue & 19th St., NW Washington, DC  
Approximately 4 blocks to Equality Center*

Massachusetts Avenue, NW crosses Dupont Circle. Follow Massachusetts Avenue, NW to 17th Street, NW. Turn **RIGHT** on 17th Street, NW. Follow 17th Street, NW to Rhode Island Avenue, NW.

## From Farragut North METRO Station

*Location: Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Approximately 3 blocks to Equality Center*

Walk east 1 block to 17th Street, NW. Turn **LEFT** on 17th Street, NW. Follow 17th Street, NW to Rhode Island Avenue, NW.



The World Future Council is a global forum of 50 respected personalities who give voice to the shared ethical values of citizens worldwide. The Council works closely with policy-makers, civil societies and business to identify and implement best policies to protect the rights of future generations.

[www.worldfuturecouncil.org](http://www.worldfuturecouncil.org)



The Worldwatch Institute is an independent research organization that focuses on innovative solutions to global environmental, resource and economic challenges. For more than three decades, Worldwatch research has represented the gold-standard for sustainability analysis for decision makers in government, civil society, business and academia, reaching opinion leaders in more than 20 languages around the globe.

[www.worldwatch.org](http://www.worldwatch.org)



The Heinrich Böll Foundation is a non-profit organization striving to promote democracy, civil society, human rights, and a healthy environment internationally. Headquartered in Berlin, we have 25 offices worldwide. The Washington D.C. office of the Böll Foundation was created in 1998. As a think-tank, we provide expertise on issues related to our mission. With the generous support of the EU Commission, in January 2008 we launched the TRANSATLANTIC CLIMATE POLICY GROUP, a two year program to deepen the transatlantic exchange on climate and energy issues.

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