

BY-LAWS OF
SOUTHERN TIER ADVOCATES FOR RENEWABLE TECHNOLOGIES

ARTICLE I- PURPOSES

Mission: Southern Tier Advocates for Renewable Technologies (START) is an independent group of renewable energy supporters that seeks positive change through the development of clean energy resources. START is dedicated to providing nonbiased, fact-based information to Cattaraugus County residents about wind energy and other renewable energy alternatives and is committed to supporting appropriate local initiatives, like the proposed wind project in the towns of Machias, Yorkshire, and Ashford.

Recognizing the environmental impacts of conventional power generating technologies, group members are dedicated to fostering positive public understanding of renewable energy technologies to ensure a more sustainable future. Through active participation in the project development process, group members seek opportunities to educate local citizenry and their elected representatives about the environmental benefits and economic opportunities for the area.

ARTICLE II- MEMBERSHIP

- 1) **QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Membership in the group shall be open to all members of the Western New York region on a nondiscriminatory basis. In order to qualify for membership, a prospective member must be sponsored by an existing member. Each prospective member must complete a signed application submitted with the application fee at the time of application. Additionally, qualifications for membership include a signed statement committing to publicly support the efforts and mission of the group. Applications for membership will be approved by a majority vote of the members present at a regular meeting of the group. Membership applications may be rejected if the prospective member has publicly denounced a project supported by the group as a whole. Upon ratification of a prospective member's acceptance into membership, attendance at the next and all meetings is encouraged.
- 2) **MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS:** Regular meetings are scheduled for the last Tuesday of each month. Location of these meetings shall be announced to every member in good standing by email and/or mail not more than two (2) weeks prior to a scheduled meeting by the secretary or other assigned participant. Changes to meeting times and/or dates will be at the discretion of the officers and require a majority approval of officers. Membership will be notified of the change by the secretary or other assigned participant as soon as possible.

- 3) **MEMBERSHIP DUES:** Membership fees to belong to the Group are a suggested donation of \$30 per household. Dues are payable 60 day from joining group and on anniversary date.
- 4) **SPECIAL MEETINGS:** Special meetings of the group may be called by the officers, the secretary or other assigned participant shall notify members by email and/or mail with a 24-hour notice.
- 5) **OFFICER MEETINGS:** Officers may, at their discretion, call an officer meeting to plan future group events and/or for organizational purposes. No notification of regular membership is required.

ARTICLE III- OFFICERS

- 1) **MANAGEMENT OF THE GROUP:** The group shall establish officers to be appointed by the group annually in April of each year at the regularly scheduled group meeting, consisting of two (2) co-chairpersons, (1) treasurer, (1) secretary, (1) media/data coordinator, (1) membership coordinator. Each officer shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age.
- 2) **QUALIFICATIONS OF OFFICERS:** All active members of the group in good standing shall be eligible to become Officers, as well as prominent members of the community.
- 3) **ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICERS:** At the April meeting, the membership shall elect Officers to hold office for an initial term of one (1) year. Each term may be extended at the election and discretion of the Group. Each Officer shall hold office until the expiration of the term for which appointed and, or until a successor has been appointed and shall have qualified, or until prior resignation and removal. No person shall hold more than one office at one time.
- 4) **INCREASE OR DECREASE IN NUMBER OF OFFICERS:** The number of officers may be increased or decreased by a vote of the members or by a vote of the majority of all officers. No decrease in number of officers shall shorten the term of any incumbent officer.
- 5) **REMOVAL OF OFFICERS/MEMBERS:** An officer may be removed from office upon agreement of the Group by a majority vote at a regularly scheduled meeting of the group. Individual members may have their membership in the group revoked by the group upon a majority vote at a regularly scheduled meeting. Written notice of said office or member removal shall be given to the Co-chairperson and Secretary of the Group.
- 6) **RESIGNATION:** An officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the co-chairperson or the secretary of the Group. Unless otherwise specified in the notice, the resignation shall take effect upon receipt thereof by the Group and acted upon at a meeting.
- 7) **COMMITTEES:** The Group may establish committees as needed including but not limited to: membership committee, website development committee, and event development committee. Each such committee shall serve at the pleasure of the Group.

ARTICLE IV- AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the By-laws shall be introduced at any scheduled meeting of the group. After introduction, the amendments shall be laid over to the next scheduled meeting of the group. Amendments to the By-laws shall be approved upon a 2/3 majority vote of the members present at said meeting.

ARTICLE V- CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

Robert's Rule of Order shall serve as the framework for the conduct of all meetings. The Co-Chairpersons may appoint a sergeant-at-arms to provide for the orderly conduct of any meeting.

Adopted this _____ of _____, 2009.

Co-Chairperson

Co-Chairperson