

**CHARTER OF THE COMPENSATION COMMITTEE  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF AVENTINE RENEWABLE ENERGY HOLDINGS, INC.**

**I. PURPOSES**

The Compensation Committee (the “*Committee*”) is appointed by the Board of Directors (the “*Board*”) of Aventine Renewable Energy Holdings, Inc. (the “*Company*”) for the purposes of (a) making recommendations to the Board with respect to the compensation of the Company’s chief executive officer (the “*CEO*”) and other executive officers, (b) administering the Company’s equity-based compensation plans and (c) reviewing the disclosures in Compensation Discussion and Analysis and producing an annual compensation committee report for inclusion in the Company’s proxy statement.

**II. RESPONSIBILITIES**

In addition to such other duties as the Board may from time to time assign, the Committee shall:

- in consultation with senior management, recommend to the Board for approval the Company’s general compensation philosophy and objectives;
- make recommendations to the Board with respect to all compensation, including salary, bonus, incentive and equity compensation, for the CEO and other executive officers;
- make recommendations to the Board with respect to all employment agreements, severance arrangements, change in control provisions and agreements and any special supplemental benefits applicable to the Company’s CEO and other executive officers;
- review and make recommendations to the Board with respect to incentive compensation and equity-based plans;
- review and discuss with management the disclosures made in Compensation Discussion and Analysis prior to the filing of the Company’s annual report on Form 10-K and proxy statement for the annual meeting of stockholders, and recommend to the Board whether the Compensation Discussion and Analysis should be included in the Form 10-K and proxy statement;
- prepare an annual compensation committee report for inclusion in the Company’s proxy statement for the annual meeting of stockholders in accordance with the applicable rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission;
- conduct an annual performance evaluation of the Committee;
- review and reassess the adequacy of this charter on an annual basis and recommend any proposed changes to the Board for approval;

- administer, subject to Board approval, the Company’s equity-based compensation plans, including the grant of stock options and other equity awards under such plans;
- recommend to the Board stock ownership guidelines for the CEO and other executive officers and directors and monitor compliance with such guidelines;
- review and recommend to the Board compensation plans, policies and benefit programs for employees generally;
- oversee the risk assessment of the Company’s compensation arrangements applicable to the Company’s executive officers and other employees and review and discuss at least annually the relationship between risk management policies and practices and compensation;
- review and make recommendations to the Board with respect to director compensation;
- recommend to the Board a succession plan for senior management and the CEO; and
- review and recommend to the Board for approval any additional services to be performed for the Company or its affiliates by a compensation consultant or its affiliates during a fiscal year in which the Committee has retained such compensation consultant to provide advice or recommendations on the form or amount of executive and director compensation.

### **III. COMPOSITION**

The Committee shall be comprised of three or more members (including a Chairman), all of whom, if required, shall be “independent directors,” as such term is defined in the rules and regulations of the Nasdaq Stock Market or the rules of any other national securities exchange on which the Company’s securities are listed or traded (collectively, the “*Exchange Rules*”). In addition, the Committee shall endeavor to ensure that at least two Committee members shall be a “Non-Employee Director” as defined by Rule 16b-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (with each member’s status in reference to Item 404(a) of Regulation S-K being determined pursuant to Note (4) to Rule 16b-3) and an “outside director” as defined by Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code. The members of the Committee and the Chairperson shall be selected not less frequently than annually by the Board and serve at the pleasure of the Board. A Committee member (including the Chairman) may be removed at any time, with or without cause, by the Board. The Board may designate one or more independent directors as alternate members of the Committee, who may replace any absent or disqualified member or members at any meetings of the Committee.

### **IV. MEETINGS AND OPERATIONS**

The Committee shall meet as often as necessary, but at least once each year, to enable it to fulfill its responsibilities. The Committee shall meet at the call of its Chairman. The

Committee may meet by telephone conference call or by any other means permitted by law or the Company's Bylaws. A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum. The Committee shall act on the affirmative vote of a majority of members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present. Subject to the Company's Bylaws, the Committee may act by unanimous written consent of all members in lieu of a meeting. The Committee shall determine its own rules and procedures, including designation of a chairman pro tempore in the absence of the Chairman, and designation of a secretary. The secretary need not be a member of the Committee and shall attend Committee meetings and prepare minutes. The Secretary of the Company shall be the Secretary of the Compensation Committee unless the Committee designates otherwise. The Committee shall keep written minutes of its meetings, which shall be recorded or filed with the books and records of the Company. Any member of the Board shall be provided with copies of such Committee minutes if requested.

The Committee may ask members of management, employees, outside counsel, or others whose advice and counsel are relevant to the issues then being considered by the Committee to attend any meetings and to provide such pertinent information as the Committee may request. The Committee shall have authority to delegate any of its responsibilities to one or more subcommittees as the Committee may from time to time deem appropriate.

The Chairman of the Committee shall be responsible for leadership of the Committee, including preparing the agenda, presiding over Committee meetings, making Committee assignments and reporting the Committee's actions to the Board from time to time (but at least once each year) as requested by the Board.

## **V. COMPENSATION CONSULTANTS AND OTHER ADVISORS**

The Committee shall recommend to the Board, to the extent it deems appropriate, whether to retain one or more compensation consultants to assist in the evaluation of director, CEO or executive compensation. The Committee shall recommend to the Board whether to retain or terminate any such consulting firm, and shall recommend to the Board whether to approve the firm's fees and other retention terms. The Committee shall recommend to the Board, to the extent it deems necessary or appropriate, whether to retain other advisors. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if so required by the Exchange Rules, the Committee has the authority to retain and terminate compensation consultants and other advisors and to approve the related fees and terms. The Company will provide for appropriate funding, as determined by the Committee, for payment of compensation to any consulting firm or other advisors employed by the Committee.

Adopted by the Compensation Committee and approved  
by the Board of Directors on April 15, 2010.