

# State-Level Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards (RPS)



## 25 States and the District of Columbia Have Adopted RPS Requirements

The **Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS)** uses market mechanisms to ensure that a growing percentage of electricity is produced from renewable sources, like wind power. The RPS provides a predictable, competitive market, within which renewable generators will compete with each other to lower prices.

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### A State-Level RPS:

#### **Helps Keep Electricity Bills Low:**

- Diversifying the power supply by developing America's homegrown renewable energy resources helps shield consumers from spikes in energy prices.
- Does not pick technology "winners" and "losers," but allows renewable energy technologies to compete against each other to further drive down costs.
- Is competitively neutral because it applies equally to all competing market participants.

#### **Spurs Economic Development:**

- A state RPS will create jobs and income in rural areas.
- Each large utility-scale wind turbine that goes on line generates over \$1.5 million in economic activity. Each turbine also provides \$2,000 to \$4,000 in lease payments per year for 20 years or more to a farmer, rancher or other landowner.
- Wind projects in rural areas contribute significantly to the local tax base.

#### **Strengthens Energy Security:**

- Increasing our use of renewable sources diversifies and decentralizes our energy infrastructure.

#### **Helps Achieve Cleaner Air:**

- The increased use of electricity from renewable resources can help reduce emissions of harmful air pollutants and of carbon dioxide (a leading greenhouse gas).



# State-Level Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards (RPS) *Continued*

RPS Requirements Have Been Adopted in 25 States & the District of Columbia (Vermont, Virginia, and Missouri Have Enacted RPS Goals)

STATE	RENEWABLES REQUIREMENT	NOTES
<b>Arizona</b>	EXPANSION OF EXISTING RPS: 15% by 2025.	30% of the requirement must be met by local onsite renewables installed by homes and businesses.
<b>California</b>	EXPANSION OF EXISTING RPS: In 2006, 20% by 2010.	Currently, 12% of electricity in state from renewables.
<b>Colorado</b>	EXPANSION OF EXISTING RPS: In 2007, the RPS changed to 20% by 2020. The previous requirement was 10% by 2015.	Wind, Photovoltaics, Landfill Gas, Biomass, Geothermal Electric.
<b>Connecticut</b>	EXPANSION OF EXISTING RPS: in 2007, 23% by 2020.	wind, solar, sustainable biomass, landfill gas, or fuel cells.
<b>Delaware</b>	EXPANSION OF EXISTING RPS: In 2007, 20% by 2019.	Solar Thermal Electric, Wind, Photovoltaics, Landfill Gas, Biomass.
<b>District of Columbia</b>	11% by 2022, Tier system. 1.5% from Tier 1 by 2007, increasing gradually to 11% by 2022. 2.5% from Tier 2 by 2007, decreasing gradually to 0% by 2020.	Tier 1: wind, solar, biomass, geothermal, methane, tidal, fuel cells. Tier 2: hydro, waste energy, includes a solar set-aside.
<b>Hawaii</b>	7% by end of 2003; 8% by end of 2005; 10% by end of 2010; 15% by end of 2015; 20% by end of 2020 (including existing renewables).	Wind, Photovoltaics, Landfill Gas, Biomass, Hydroelectric, Renewable Transportation Fuels, Geothermal Electric, Geothermal Heat Pumps, Municipal Solid Waste, Cogeneration, etc.
<b>Illinois</b>	NEW RPS: In 2007, 25% by 2025, starting at 2% in 2008; 75% from wind.	Solar Water Heat, Solar Thermal Electric, Photovoltaics, Landfill Gas, Wind, Biomass, Hydroelectric, Biodiesel; efficiency is eligible.
<b>Iowa</b>	Requires investor-owned utilities to contract a combined total of 105 megawatts (MW) of their generation from renewable resources,	Wind, Photovoltaics, Biomass, Hydroelectric, Municipal Solid Waste.
<b>Maine</b>	EXPANSION OF EXISTING RPS 30% of retail sales in 2000 and thereafter as a condition of relicensing. Plus an additional 10% by 2017.	Wind, solar, geothermal, tidal, hydro, biomass, municipal solid waste under 100 MW, and qualified small power generation facilities. [Note that renewables, mainly hydro, currently account for approximately 50% of Maine's electricity mix].
<b>Maryland</b>	EXPANSION OF EXISTING RPS: 9.5% by 2022 under a tiered system.	Two-tiered system: Tier 1: Wind, solar, biomass, geothermal, landfill gas, wave. Tier 2: Hydroelectric, poultry litter, waste energy.
<b>Massachusetts</b>	1% of sales in new renewables in 2003 or 1 year after any renewable is within 10% of average spot market price, and increasing by 0.5% per year to 4% by 2009 and 1% per year thereafter.	Wind, advanced biomass, landfill gas, solar, geothermal or wave/tidal technologies.
<b>Minnesota</b>	EXPANSION OF EXISTING RPS: 25% by 2025. For Xcel Energy 30% by 2020. For other electricity providers: goal of 25% by 2025.	Of the 30% renewables required of Xcel Energy by 2020, "at least" 25% must be generated by wind power and "the remaining" 5% by other eligible renewables
<b>Missouri (goal)</b>	NEW GOAL: 11% by 2020.	Wind, Solar, Hydro, Hydrogen from renewables, Biomass
<b>Montana</b>	15% by 2015.	Wind, Solar Thermal Electric, Photovoltaics, Landfill Gas, Biomass.
<b>Nevada</b>	EXPANSION OF EXISTING RPS: In 2007, the RPS changed to 20% by 2015 from the previous state requirement of 5% by 2003, rising by 2% every two years until reaching 15% by 2013.	A minimum of 5% must be from solar.
<b>New Jersey</b>	EXPANSION OF EXISTING RPS: In 2006, the state requirement of 0.5% effective 2001, increasing to 1% by 2006, then increasing by 0.5% per year to 4% by 2012, was replaced with 22.5% by 2021 and thereafter.	Two-tiered system. Class 1: wind, solar, fuel cells, geothermal, wave/tidal, landfill/methane gas, and sustainably harvested biomass. Class 2: hydro or resource recovery facilities.
<b>New Hampshire</b>	25% by 2025	wind, hydro, biomass, solar, and geothermal.
<b>New Mexico</b>	EXPANSION OF EXISTING RPS: In 2007, the RPS changed to 5% by 2006, increasing to 10% by 2011, 15% by 2015 and 20% by 2020. Rural electric cooperatives: 5% by 2015, increasing to 10% by 2020.	Solar Thermal Electric, Photovoltaics, Landfill Gas, Wind, Biomass, Hydroelectric, Geothermal Electric, Zero emission technology, Anaerobic Digestion, Fuel Cells using Renewable Fuels.
<b>New York</b>	25% by 2013.	Wind, photovoltaics, landfill gas, biomass, hydroelectric, fuel cells, cogeneration, biogas, liquid biofuel, anaerobic digestion, tidal energy, wave energy, ocean thermal, ethanol, methanol, biodiesel.
<b>North Carolina</b>	NEW RPS: 12.5% Renewables and Energy Efficiency by 2021, up to 40% of Standard met with efficiency.	wind, solar, hydropower, geothermal, ocean or wave energy; biomass including agricultural waste, animal waste, wood waste, and other; waste heat or hydrogen derived from a renewables, 300 MW from solar.
<b>Oregon</b>	Large utilities: 25% by 2025, Small utilities: 10% by 2025, Smallest utilities: 5% by 2025.	Wind, Solar Thermal Electric, Photovoltaics, Landfill Gas, Biomass, Hydroelectric, Geothermal Electric, Hydrogen, Anaerobic Digestion, Tidal Energy, Wave Energy, Ocean Thermal
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	18% by 2020 (8% from Tier 1, 10% from Tier 2). For Tier 1, 1.5% by 2007 increasing 0.5% per year.	Tier 1: wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, coal bed methane and fuel cells. Tier 2: waste coal, municipal solid waste, large hydro, coal gasification. Includes a solar set-aside of 0.5% by 2020.
<b>Rhode Island</b>	16% by end of 2019.	Wind, Photovoltaics, Biomass, Geothermal Electric, Small Hydroelectric, Tidal Energy, Wave Energy, Ocean Thermal, Fuel Cells, (Renewable Fuels).
<b>Texas</b>	5,580 MW by 2015.	Wind, solar, geothermal, hydroelectric, wave or tidal energy, and biomass or biomass-based waste products including landfill gas. Establishes a credit trading program administered by ERCOT.
<b>Vermont (goal)</b>	10% by 2012 ( <i>not a requirement, but an established goal.</i> )	If the goal is not met by 2012, the percentage of new load growth will become a mandatory standard.
<b>Virginia (goal)</b>	12% of base year (2007) sales by 2022, ( <i>not a requirement, but an established goal.</i> )	Wind, Solar Thermal Electric, Photovoltaics, Biomass, Hydroelectric, Geothermal Electric, Energy from Waste, Anaerobic Digestion, Tidal Energy, Wave Energy
<b>Washington</b>	3% by 2012, 9% by 2016, and 15% by 2020.	Wind, solar, geothermal, landfill gas, water, wave, ocean or tidal power, biodiesel, municipal solid waste and gas from sewage treatment plants.
<b>Wisconsin</b>	EXPANSION OF EXISTING RPS: In 2006, state requirement of 2.2% by 2010 raised to 10% by 2015.	Wind, solar, biomass, geothermal, tidal, fuel cells and small hydro.