

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
Arizona	EXPANSION OF EXISTING RPS: 15% by 2025.	30% of the requirement must be met by local onsite renewables installed by homes and businesses.
California	EXPANSION OF EXISTING RPS: In 2006, 20% by 2010.	Currently, 12% of electricity in state from renewables.
Colorado	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.
Connecticut	EXPANSION OF EXISTING RPS: in 2007, 23% by 2020.	wind, solar, sustainable biomass, landfill gas, or fuel cells.
Delaware	EXPANSION OF EXISTING RPS: In 2007, 20% by 2019.	Solar Thermal Electric, Wind, Photovoltaics, Landfill Gas, Biomass.
District of Columbia	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.
Hawaii	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.
Illinois	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.
Iowa	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.
Maine	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].
Maryland	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.
Massachusetts	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.
Minnesota	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
Missouri (goal)	NEW GOAL: 11% by 2020.	Wind, Solar, Hydro, Hydrogen from renewables, Biomass
Montana	15% by 2015.	Wind, Solar Thermal Electric, Photovoltaics, Landfill Gas, Biomass.
Nevada	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.
New Jersey	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.
New Hampshire	25% by 2025	wind, hydro, biomass, solar, and geothermal.
New Mexico	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.
New York	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.
North Carolina	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.
Oregon	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
Pennsylvania	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.
Rhode Island	16% by end of 2019.	Wind, Photovoltaics, Biomass, Geothermal Electric, Small Hydroelectric, Tidal Energy, Wave Energy, Ocean Thermal, Fuel Cells, (Renewable Fuels).
Texas	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.
Vermont (goal)	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.
Virginia (goal)	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
Washington	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.
Wisconsin	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.