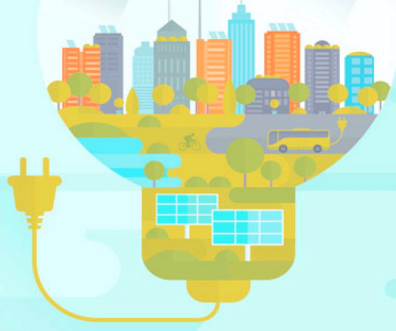


Resilient and Equitable Renewable Portfolio Standard for New Orleans



A Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) is . . .

- a requirement that utility companies increase the percentage of energy generated by renewable sources, like solar, wind, geothermal;
- a way of reducing the use of fossil fuels that contribute to climate change and worsen air quality;
- an opportunity for homeowners, renters, and business owners to participate in generating and using renewable energy with benefits that include lower utility bills.

Types of Renewable Portfolio Standards

The most popular type of RPS sets a target year when renewable energy comprises a specific percentage of the total energy production.

Example: California's RPS requires renewable energy to comprise 44% of total production by 2024; 52 % by 2027; 60% by 2030; 100% clean energy by 2045.

Another type of RPS requires a specific amount of power to be generated by renewable energy sources.

Example: Iowa's RPS requires 105 megawatts (MW) of power to be generated by renewable sources.

Energy companies comply with a RPS by confirming generation by renewable resources, or obtaining Renewable Energy Credits (REC's) that represent 1 MWh of renewable energy generation.

To promote a diversified range of renewable energies and ensure the utilization of certain technologies, many RPS include:

- "Carve-Outs" that require a specific technology to meet the required percentage of the overall renewable energy production
- "Credit Multipliers" that award additional renewable energy credits for electricity produced by certain technologies

In New Orleans, a Renewable Portfolio Standard can be designed to . . .

- reduce the energy cost burden on low income households which is the second highest in the nation
- support community solar projects
- develop rooftop solar programs for multi-family housing

Many clean energy advocates recommend a RPS for New Orleans that requires 15% of energy production from renewable sources by 2022, 25% by 2025, 40% by 2029, 55% by 2033 and 100% by 2040.

In March 2019, the City Council passed a resolution to allow for initial drafting of an RPS. A decision by the Council is expected in 6-7 months (Dec. 2019).

Louisiana is one of 13 states without a RPS. The majority of other states without a RPS are also in the southeast.

New Orleans residents have demonstrated resilience by installing rooftop solar on their homes. As a result, New Orleans is one of the leading cities in the US that generate the most solar energy from rooftop solar.

Renewable Portfolios in US so far

- 29 states, Washington DC, and 3 territories each have a RPS.
- 8 states and 1 territory have a Renewable Portfolio Goal (non-enforceable target).
- Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Vermont all have requirements of 50% or greater, while California, Washington, D.C, Hawaii, Washington, Puerto Rico have clean standards of 100%.

