On March 28, 2019 the New Orleans City Council Utility, Cable, Telecommunications and Technology Committee introduced a resolution to establish rules for a Renewable Portfolio Standard in New Orleans. This rulemaking creates a framework to build healthier and more affordable energy options that will have significant economic impacts including local job creation and investment. Many cities have committed to 100% renewable energy across the country, from densely populated cities like Los Angeles, CA to small towns like Abita Springs, LA across Lake Pontchartrain. New Orleans has a clear opportunity to join these cities and become an economic leader in renewable energy.

On July 15, 2019 the Energy Future New Orleans (EFNO) coalition submitted the Resilient and Renewable Portfolio Standard (R-RPS). The R-RPS is organized into various proposed strategies that focus on creating a booming renewable energy economy, communities that enjoy cleaner air, and renewable energy that is generated and stored to be used where it’s needed and when it’s needed.

Tier 1
Resilient

By 2025, 10% of our energy must come from customer resources that make the grid stronger. These resources include Council-approved demand response programs (rewarding change in electricity use during peak times), and grid-connected resources like large-scale storage and microgrids to provide emergency backup power and grid support.

Tier 2
Affordable

Tier 2 includes net-metered resources like rooftop and community solar, and an assortment of energy efficiency measures. By 2025, a total of 30% of energy must come from Tier 1 and Tier 2 resources. Locally-sited renewables create local jobs and increase home values by keeping energy spending in our own communities.

Tier 3
Renewable

Tier 3 resources are large-scale renewable resources like utility scale ‘solar farms,’ wind turbines, or ‘run of river’ hydropower. These clean resources are the most affordable resources today, beating fossil fuel energy costs. By increasing our use of renewables, we can position Louisiana as a leader in the energy industry, revitalize port infrastructure, and put skilled Louisiana energy workers to work on a clean energy future.
New Orleans is rich in history and cultural traditions. This diversity is the strength of the city, and deserves a voice. Energy Future New Orleans is a coalition of many of these diverse voices, that was founded on the principles of community participation and greater democracy in choice of energy resources. These local and national groups work in collaboration to promote affordable and resilient energy solutions that help revitalize the local economy, create jobs, strengthen the grid, and ensure energy security even under extreme weather events. In a region known for leadership in energy, EFNO has developed the Resilient + Renewable Portfolio Standard to reposition that leadership for a technologically-advanced world that works for everyone.

The R-RPS proposal provides fair access to resources and opportunities, addressing and avoiding racial, economic and environmental disparities stemming from traditional energy systems with solutions that benefit systematically disadvantaged communities and customers for years into the future in New Orleans.