



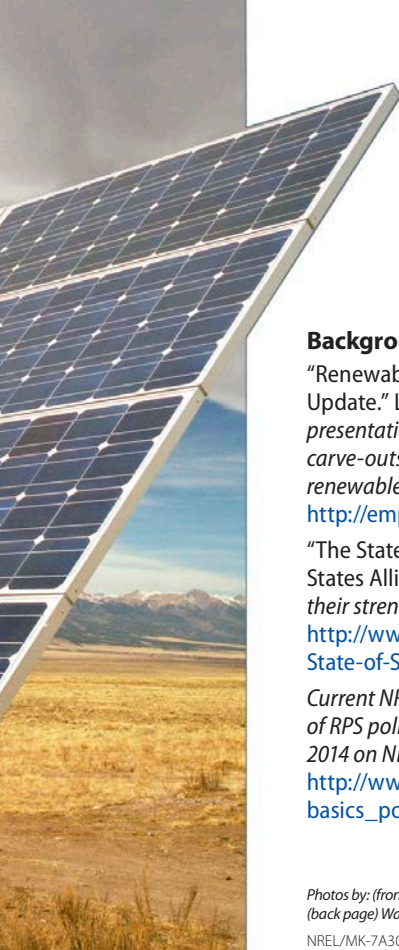
So you have questions about...

Renewable Portfolio Standards

Resources & Technical Assistance

Second in a series of Policy Basics





A renewable portfolio standard (RPS), sometimes called a renewable electricity standard, is a state-level requirement, typically established through legislation, to provide a minimum amount of energy from renewable resources. Often the requirements are defined as a percentage of renewable energy by a given date (e.g., 20% by 2020). States define what technologies are eligible for RPS requirements as well as which utilities are subject to them. As of the end of 2013, twenty-nine states and the District of Columbia had an RPS in place, while eight states had voluntary renewable energy goals.

States sometimes design an RPS to drive a particular technology by providing “carve out” provisions that mandate a certain percentage of electricity generated comes from a particular technology (e.g., solar). RPS policies have been designed in many ways, and a variety of research has been published that characterizes current and best practices.

Background

“Renewables Portfolio Standards in the United States: A Status Update.” Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (2013). *The presentation provides a review of current RPS policies and highlights carve-outs and recent political challenges; shows positive impacts on renewable energy development.*

http://emp.lbl.gov/sites/all/files/rps_summit_nov_2013.pdf

“The State of State Renewable Portfolio Standards.” Clean Energy States Alliance. *Provides an overview of RPS track records, highlights their strengths, and outlines ways of addressing weaknesses.*

<http://www.cleanenergystates.org/assets/2013-Files/RPS/State-of-State-RPSs-Report-Final-June-2013.pdf>

Current NREL research is examining the state-level costs and benefits of RPS policies. This report is forthcoming and will be available in late 2014 on NREL’s RPS Resources site:

http://www.nrel.gov/tech_deployment/state_local_activities/basics_portfolio_standards.html.

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Resources

State-Federal RPS Collaborative (2009). *Recommended Principles and Best Practices for State Renewable Portfolio Standards. Identifies principles and best practices emerging from state experiences to assist policymakers.*

<http://www.cleanenergystates.org/assets/Uploads/Resources-post-8-16/Principles-Best-Practices-RPS-2.pdf>

Database of State Incentives for Renewable Energy (DSIRE). *A comprehensive source of information on incentives and policies that support renewables and energy efficiency in the United States. Also includes “Solar Carve-outs in Renewable Portfolio Standards,” which provides a high level summary of solar carve-outs in RPS policies and a summary of best practices.*

<http://www.dsireusa.org/solar/solarpolicyguide/?id=21>

Technical Assistance

NREL’s Solar Technical Assistance Team (STAT) is a team of solar technology and deployment experts who ensure that the best information on policies, regulations, financing and other issues is getting into the hands of state government decision makers at the time they need it. For more information, please visit:

http://www.nrel.gov/tech_deployment/stat.html.