

# Corporate Renewable Energy Procurement Pathways in the Southeast: **MISSISSIPPI**

**Many corporations, higher education institutions, and municipalities use off-site renewable energy purchasing to meet ambitious renewable energy goals. Limited off-site renewable projects in the Southeastern United States may not be a function of limited corporate interest, but rather may reflect regulatory and market barriers. This report summarizes the status of off-site renewable procurement in Mississippi, highlighting the potential for market expansion**

To understand the potential for renewable procurement in the Southeast, NREL gathered and estimated data from corporations, cities, and higher education institutions with renewable energy commitments. We pair this with data on existing renewable energy supply options (Figure 1). A summary of purchasing pathways in the state and their contracted capacity is found in Table 1.

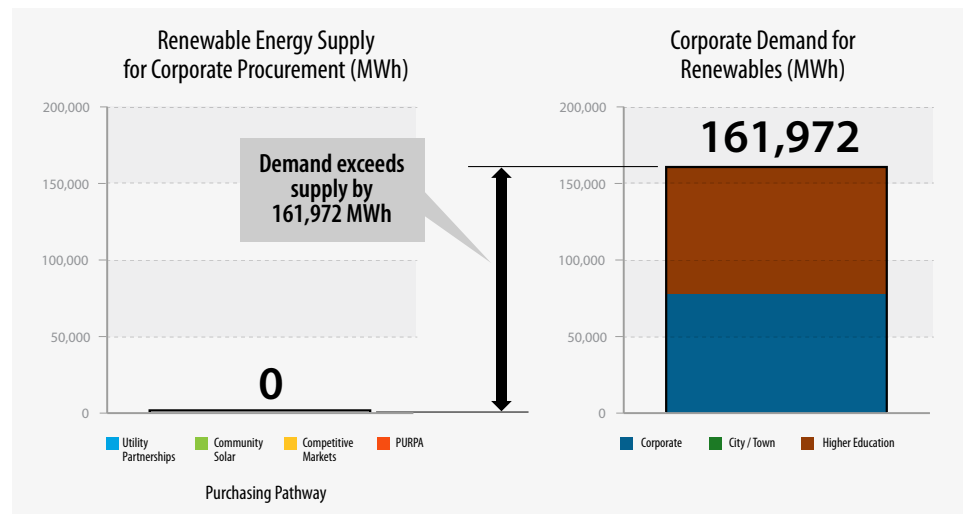


Figure 1. Corporate renewable energy supply and demand

In Mississippi, our sample of demand for renewables exceeds supply by 161,972 megawatt hours (MWh). The demand is split between higher education institutions and corporates.

## Utility Partnerships

To date, Mississippi Power and Entergy Mississippi have not offered green tariff programs to corporate customers. Corporations in Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) service territory may be able to pursue bilateral agreements with TVA, which has experience negotiating renewable energy contracts with corporate customers in other states.

## Community Solar

Mississippi utilities have not developed community solar projects open to corporate customers.

## Competitive Market Access

About 38% of commercial and industrial load in Mississippi is served by utilities that participate in the Midcontinent ISO. Corporate sites located in these territories may be positioned to procure renewable energy through off-site power purchase agreements (PPAs), although this pathway has not been used to date.

## PURPA

The federal Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA) has enabled the development of 52 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy capacity in Mississippi, although corporations do not directly own any

qualifying facilities. In Mississippi Power territory, qualifying facilities up to 80 MW are eligible for fixed-rate, avoided-cost payments that are negotiated with the utility. Entergy Mississippi has received approval to limit its PURPA program to facilities  $\leq$  20 MW.

## Market Outlook

This analysis identified no corporate-driven utility- or community-scale procurement in Mississippi, suggesting that this state may be a difficult market for customers with renewable energy objectives. However, a few options may be viable in certain utility service territories. Corporate customers located in Energy Mississippi or other utility service territories that participate in the MISO market have the option to pursue renewable energy capacity via off-site PPAs. Organizations in TVA territory may be able to leverage that utility's experience forming bilateral agreements in Tennessee and Alabama.

Pathway	Deployed Capacity (MW)	Key Considerations
Utility Partnerships	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No utility partnerships to date</li><li>Customers might be able to pursue utility partnerships in TVA territory</li></ul>
Community Solar	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No utility program</li></ul>
Competitive Markets	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Some customers may be positioned to pursue off-site PPAs in the MISO market</li><li>Retail choice is not available</li></ul>
PURPA	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Corporations do not own QFs</li><li>Contract terms are negotiated with the utility</li></ul>

Table 1. Deployed capacity and key considerations for corporate procurement

Heeter, Jenny; Cook, Jeffrey J.; and Jenny Sauer. 2018. *Existing and Potential Corporate Off-site Renewable Procurement in the Southeast*. Golden, CO: National Renewable Energy Laboratory. NREL/TP-6A20-72003. <https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy18osti/72003.pdf>.