



Udall 50% by 2035 National Renewable Electricity Standard (RES)

We cannot reach our climate goals as a nation unless ALL states ramp up clean energy deployment. At the end of 2018, renewable energy provided 17.6% of U.S. electricity generation, according to the Energy Information Administration. The Udall RES gets us to 50% renewable electricity in just 15 years and puts us on a trajectory to decarbonize the power sector before mid-century. As there is a large and growing gap between clean energy leader and laggard states (some states as low as 2% renewables), the Udall RES requires utilities in every state to participate in the clean energy momentum we are seeing across the country. That means less pollution in front-line communities as well as in down-wind states.

The cost of wind and solar has fallen by more than 70 percent over the last decade, making these renewable energy sources the cheapest forms of new zero carbon electricity in the country. It has also made renewable energy more affordable for consumers.

In the past few years, the United States has seen explosive growth in renewable energy jobs with over 440,000 jobs and growing. Renewable energy has tremendous economic development, public health and environmental benefits that will help our nation make a more just and equitable transition to a clean energy economy.

What it does:

- Creates a federal floor-setting standard that increases annual sales from renewable electricity generation from utilities in ALL STATES.
 - Starting in 2020, the RES requires that each retail electricity provider increase its supply of renewable energy by a percentage of total retail sales each year.
- Renewable energy is defined as solar, wind, ocean, tidal, geothermal energy, biomass, landfill gas, incremental hydropower, and hydrokinetic energy.
- Each kilowatt hour of electric energy generated by a new renewable resource is entitled to a Renewable Electricity Credit (REC), which will be turned in for compliance.
 - While some small exceptions apply, most existing renewable electricity generation is not eligible for federal RECs.
- Achieves AT LEAST 50% electricity from renewables in the U.S. by 2035, roughly doubling business as usual.
- Requires the Secretary of Energy to submit a plan to Congress for changes to the program post-2035 to achieve zero-carbon in the utility sector.

Science-based:

- Consistent with the mid-case scenarios to avoid overshoot in the 2018 IPCC 1.5 C Special Report.
- Consistent with NREL's 2018, 80% by 2050 national renewable portfolio standard modeling and 2012 Renewable Electricity Futures Study.
- Consistent with UCS' 2016 U.S. Power Sector in a Net-Zero World Report
- Consistent with Evolved Energy Research 2019 350 ppm Pathways for the U.S. Report
- Consistent with commitments by the leading clean energy states -8 states and DC have targets of 50% renewables or more by 2030.

Equitable:

- Reduces disparities between states by mostly excluding existing renewable generation.
 - No matter how many renewables a state has built (or hasn't built), electricity providers in every state are asked to increase their annual sales from renewables by at least the same percentage - no state is at a disadvantage.
- Incentivizes renewable energy development in all states.
 - Allowing electricity providers to only purchase credits for compliance from mostly NEW renewable generation greatly reduces concerns around wealth-transfers and outsourcing of compliance to leading clean energy states.
- Incentivizes renewable energy development in Native American and "impacted communities".
 - Impacted communities:
 - An economically distressed area affected by environmental pollution or other hazards that can lead to exposure to the pollution or hazard, including negative public health effects resulting from that exposure; or environmental degradation.
 - An economically distressed area affected by high unemployment due to a significant decline in coal mining activity; or the closure of a coal-fired power plant.
 - New renewable energy generation in these communities is credited at twice the value.

Achievable:

- Establishes an achievable ramp-up schedule.
 - The federal floor-setting standard (ramp-up rate) starts at 1.5% in 2020 for utilities over 1 million megawatt hours, increasing to 2% per year through 2029, and maxing out at 2.5% per year through 2035.
 - The federal ramp-up rate for utilities under 1 million megawatt hours is half the rate of the large utilities.
- States with Renewable Electricity Standards or Low Carbon Energy Standards at/above the federal floor can opt-out; states with generation mixes of at least 60% renewable energy can opt-out.
- Provides states with additional compliance flexibility by allowing the banking and borrowing of credits for three years.

Outcomes:

- Incentivizes states to create and/or strengthen their own renewable electricity standards, or “clean energy standards”.
- Achieves significant cuts in power-sector carbon emissions, as well as other pollutants that disproportionately affect economically vulnerable communities and communities of color.
- Incentivizes renewable energy development in ALL states, spurring new clean energy investments in rural communities and creating new high-quality jobs in manufacturing, construction, operation, maintenance, and many other industries.
- Analysis by the Union of Concerned Scientists shows that a 50% by 2035 national RES would result in:
 - Twice as much renewable electricity by 2035 as business as usual, 38% less natural gas, and 97% less coal.
 - \$374 billion in cumulative new capital investments from 2020-2035
 - \$34 billion (0.6%) in cumulative net savings on consumer energy bills from 2020-2035, with slightly higher electricity bills more than offset by lower natural gas bills
 - A 46% reduction in power sector carbon dioxide emissions in 2035

National and Regional Organizations Endorsing the Udall RES

American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE)
American Wind Energy Association (AWEA)
Appalachian Voices
Climate for Health - ecoAmerica
Environment America
Environmental Law and Policy Center
Environmental Working Group
Health Care Without Harm
Interwest Energy Alliance
League of Conservation Voters
National Wildlife Federation
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Union of Concerned Scientists
Sierra Club
Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA)
The Wilderness Society
Biomass Power Association

State and local organizations

Environment Arizona
Environment California
Environment Colorado
Environment Connecticut
Environment Florida
Environment Georgia
Environment Illinois
Environment Maine
Environment Maryland
Environment Massachusetts
Environment Michigan
Environment Minnesota
Environment Missouri
Environment Montana
Environment Nevada
Environment New Mexico
Environment New Jersey
Environment North Carolina
Environment Oregon
Environment Texas
Environment Virginia
Environment Washington
Fresh Energy
Interwest Energy Alliance is in the Mountain west
Maine Renewable Energy Association
Natural Resources Council of Maine
PennEnvironment
ReVision Maine
Wisconsin Environment