Renewable Portfolio Standards
Reducing dependence on fossil fuels drives the economy and saves lives

What is the RPS?

The Connecticut Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) is a state policy designed to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, lower air emissions, promote clean energy jobs, and drive economic development.

The RPS requires electric providers to purchase a percentage of their power from clean energy sources, such as solar and wind, by a certain date.

Connecticut's RPS has required electric providers to gradually increase the amount of renewable energy they deliver, but these targets end in 2020.
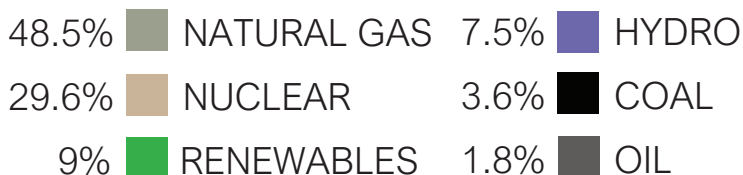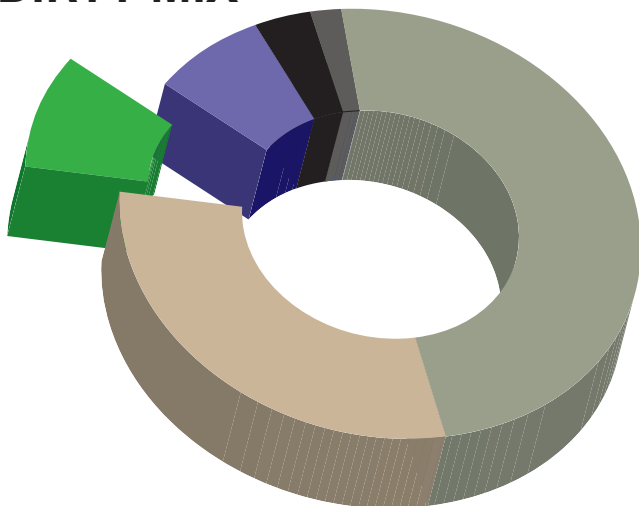
How does it work?

In order to know whether utilities and other electricity suppliers are meeting the goals of the RPS, there needs to be a way to track exactly the type of electricity generated and from what source.

RECs: Renewable Energy Certificates are tradable credits representing one megawatt hour (1MWh) of renewable electricity, tracked in a database.

ACP: Alternative Compliance Payment are fines imposed on electric providers that fail to comply with the RPS. Currently Connecticut's ACP is set at $55/MWh.

A DIRTY MIX

48.5%	NATURAL GAS	7.5%	HYDRO
29.6%	NUCLEAR	3.6%	COAL
9%	RENEWABLES	1.8%	OIL

Fuel usage by source. Source: www.iso-ne.com

THE RPS IS CRITICAL FOR CONNECTICUT

Climate Change and Public Health

To address climate change, Connecticut must derive more electricity from renewable sources and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. The RPS reduces destructive carbon dioxide emissions that cause global warming, and harmful pollution from nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and mercury, which are linked to acid rain, smog, respiratory illness, and water contamination.

A January 2017 report by Abt Associates has shown by limiting these harmful pollutants, we've seen significant improvements in health and reductions in spending on health care.

Connecticut saw major benefits and productivity: saving up to 34 lives, preventing 1,950 lost work days, and saving over $300 million in health costs.

Job Growth

According to a January 2017 report by U.S. Department of Energy and BW Research Partnership, there are 36,875 energy efficiency and solar jobs in Connecticut. According to the Solar Foundation, the solar industry has added jobs twelve times faster than the rest of the economy.

Expanding renewable energy in Connecticut will mean more employment opportunities, and more investment dollars in local communities.

Renewable Investment

The RPS provides incentives for utilizing clean energy options, leveling the playing field with fossil fuel energy that already has the incumbent advantage. Multiple technologies must compete under the RPS, promoting cost reductions for renewable technology.

Cost Savings for Consumers

Renewable energy will help diversify and stabilize electricity supplies, protecting customers from price volatility and supply risks created by over reliance on natural gas. Renewable energy sources such as wind and solar have zero fuel costs, which allows for competitive long-term pricing that can save consumers money on their energy bills.

Sources:
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www.ctcleanenergy.com
www.epa.gov
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www.thesolarfoundation.org
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www.ucsusa.org
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abtassociates.com/rggi

RPS Bill Proposals
Strengthening Connecticut's Renewable Energy Goals

Connecticut'sS RPS framework needs to be updated in order to meet our goals to lower greenhouse gas emissions and drive investment in renewable energy.

Extend Targets

Currently Connecticut's RPS standards end in 2020. The bill should extend the RPS targets through 2050 with the following standards:

• By 2025, not less than 35% of Class I renewables

• By 2030, not less than 50% of Class I renewables
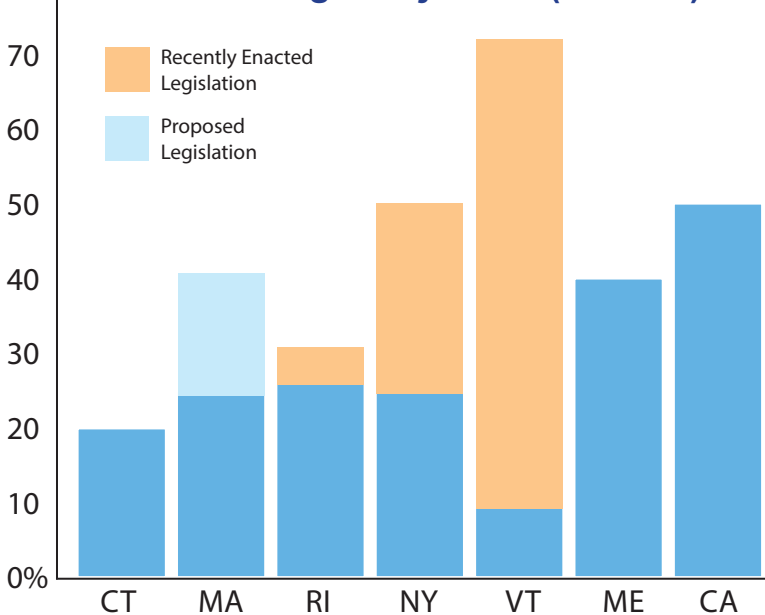
• By 2040, not less than 80% of Class I renewables

Increase Alternative Compliance Payment

The bill should modify the ACP structure to increase the rate from $55 to $67/MWh for 2017, which should be adjusted annually according to the Consumer Price Index.
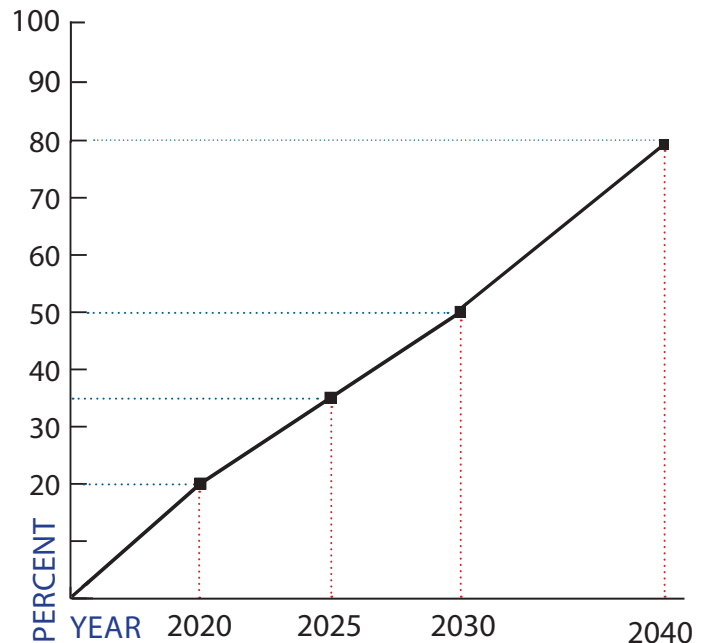
Changes to the ACP are Needed for Three Reasons

• The current low price encourages electric producers to pay the ACP fine instead of complying with the RPS.

• When market prices exceed $55/MWh, RECs migrate to other states, increasing chances Connecticut will face Class I REC shortages.

• Connecticut loses opportunities for renewable energy development (and the accompanying job and economic growth) when electric suppliers fail to comply with the RPS.

Proposed Extended RPS Targets

RPS Targets by State (to 2030)

Direct ACP Funds to Clean Energy Investment

The bill should allow the ACP funds to be used to support further growth in renewables.

Investing in clean energy programs will help reduce the cost of clean energy technologies, and lower the cost of achieving the 80% renewables goal by 2040. Connecticut's clean energy investment programs have a proven track record of creating jobs and growth in renewables while reducing CO_2 emissions—the best investment Connecticut can make right now.

Questions on the RPS can be directed to the following organizations:
CFE/Save the Sound: Claire Coleman, *ccoleman@ctenvironment.org*
Acadia Center: William Dornbos, *wdornbos@acadiacenter.org*
Environment CT: Chris Phelps *cphelps@environmentconnecticut.org*
Sierra Club: Mark Kresowik, *mark.kresowik@sierraclub.org*
Renew Northeast: Francis Pullaro, *fpullaro@renew-ne.org*
CT Roundtable : John Humphries, *john@ctclimateandjobs.org*
NECEC: Janet Gail Besser, *jbesser@necec.org*