

### November

This month's newsletter announces a CESA webinar on a new small wind certification program and news from around the country. If you have any news you would like to share in our December issue, please let me know.

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### Newsletter Spotlights

- CESA Webinar on Turbines for Distributed Wind Projects - November 18th
- Illinois Enacts Distribution Generation Requirement
- Minnesota Utilities Submit Reports on RPS Rate Impacts
- New Hampshire Completes a Review of Its RPS

### Upcoming Webinars

#### **CESA Webinar on Turbines for Distributed Wind Projects - November 18th**

Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA) is holding a webinar that may be of interest to some of you. CESA has been working with several state clean energy agencies over the past four months to develop and launch an innovative collaboration to tackle one of the biggest challenges facing distributed wind programs: developing a list of reliable small and mid-sized wind turbines to be eligible for incentives.

The state agencies have joined together into a new Interstate Turbine Advisory Council that will develop a unified list of turbines that fit the performance, durability, and customer experience expectations of their programs. This project will reduce market confusion and inefficiency by condensing the many state-level wind turbine lists into a single resource. Participating organizations include the California Energy Commission, Energy Trust of Oregon, the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, Nevada Energy, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Office of Clean Energy, and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority.

This webinar will describe the project and its desired outcomes. It will take place on Friday, November 18th from 1 – 2 PM EST. To sign up for the webinar, email Lizzie Rubado: [Lizzie@cleanegroup.org](mailto:Lizzie@cleanegroup.org).

### News Updates

#### **Illinois Enacts Distribution Generation Requirement**

As part of the Energy Infrastructure Modernization Act, which became law in late-October, Illinois added a distributed generation requirement as part of its RPS. The RPS now includes a set-aside for customer-sited distributed generation up to 2 megawatts. The first target that the state needs to meet is 0.5% by June 1, 2013 and it ramps up to 1% by June 1, 2015. At least half the requirement must be met by resources of less than 25 kilowatts. Any solar and wind installations that are used to meet this new requirement can also simultaneously count towards the state's solar and wind set-asides. This DG requirement was just one small piece of a wide-ranging bill. Other aspects of the legislation that focused on smart grid, grid modernization, and utility performance standards received considerably more attention and were more controversial. For a story in the Chicago Tribune about the overall legislation, go to: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/ct-biz-1030-smart-grid-story-20111030,0,6820304.story?page=1>.

## Minnesota Utilities Submit Reports on RPS Rate Impacts

Many states have been interested in the rate impacts of their RPSs. Some recent data from Minnesota provides information on this topic for that state. As required by recent legislation, Minnesota utilities submitted reports to the state's legislature and to the Public Utilities Commission on the rate impacts so far of the state's RPS. Eight of 14 utilities stated that the RPS has had little or no impact on rates. The other 6 utilities stated that their rates were going up because of the RPS, although only in the case of Minnkota Power Cooperative, with a nearly 16% rate impact, was the rate increase large. Some utilities even stated that they would have brought the same amount of wind energy online without the mandate of the RPS, because it benefitted their customers. There will now be a public comment period on the filings. For a summary of the reports from Midwest Energy News, go to: <http://www.midwestenergynews.com/2011/11/02/minnesota-utilities-report-mixed-rate-impact-from-renewable-standard>. If you want to see the utilities' reports, go to: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/edockets/searchDocuments.do?method=eDocketsResult&userType=public>. Then do a search by Docket Number, with 11 being the year and 852 being the number.

## New Hampshire Completes a Review of Its RPS

The New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission has completed a review of the state's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard, as required by law. The report has been submitted to the state's legislature. You can read it by going to: <http://www.puc.nh.gov/Sustainable%20Energy/RPS/RPS%20Review%202011.pdf>.

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## State-Federal RPS Collaborative webpage on CESA Website

CESA has revamped its website ([www.cleanenergystates.org](http://www.cleanenergystates.org)) and includes a section specifically for the State-Federal RPS Collaborative and its activities ([www.cleanenergystates.org/projects/state-federal-rps-collaborative/](http://www.cleanenergystates.org/projects/state-federal-rps-collaborative/)). RPS Collaborative webinar presentations and reports can be found here, along with webinar recordings. In the coming weeks, we will add more RPS-related resources and information to the website.

## Join the RPS Collaborative Listserv

If you are not already a member of the States Advancing RPS listserv (SARPS1) for the State-Federal RPS Collaborative and want to receive future issues of this newsletter and announcement of collaborative events, please join us. To add or remove your name from the SARPS1 listserv, please email [Maria@cleanegroup.org](mailto:Maria@cleanegroup.org) and put "States Advancing RPS" in the subject line. Thank you!

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## The State-Federal RPS Collaborative is generously supported by the Energy Foundation and the U.S. Department of Energy

The State-Federal RPS Collaborative, a joint project of the **Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA)** and **Clean Energy Group**, was established to advance dialogue and cooperation among a broad network of state government officials and NGO experts. The Collaborative provides a forum for the exchange of experiences and lessons learned regarding the implementation of state RPS policies and the marketing of RECs or credits across the U.S.

**For more information about the RPS Collaborative visit**

<http://www.cleanenergystates.org/projects/state-federal-rps-collaborative/>