

State-Federal RPS Collaborative



States Advancing RPS Newsletter

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October

This month's newsletter discusses the 2011 National Summit on RPS, an upcoming webinar on effective state clean-energy policies, and news updates from around the country.

Warren Leon, Senior Advisor
Clean Energy States Alliance
WLeon@cleanegroup.org

Newsletter Spotlights

- National Summit on RPS October 26-27.
- NRRI Webinar and Reports on Clean Energy Policy
- California Updates Program Handbooks
- Arizona Supreme Court Rules that the State's RPS Is Legal
- Vermont Public Service Board Recommends that the State Adopt an RPS

Recent Events

Report on the 2011 National Summit on RPS

The National Summit on RPS was held in Washington, DC on October 26-27, 2011 and it was a big success. More than 80 people attended, representing 19 state governments, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, the federal government, renewable energy businesses, utilities, NGOs, research organizations, and service providers.

The Summit included a wide range of useful presentations from leading experts from the federal government, the business community, and nonprofit organizations. You can see slides from some of those presentations by going to the [State-Federal RPS Collaborative webpage](#). Presentations will be posted by November 2nd.

At least as valuable was the opportunity for state RPS administrators and regulators to exchange experiences and ideas related to RPS design and administration. In the coming months, we will be following up with webinars on topics that emerged from the discussions at the Summit.

We are grateful to the U.S. Department of Energy and the Energy Foundation for providing financial support for the Summit. We hope to be able to hold another Summit next fall and hope you will be able to attend.

Upcoming Webinars

NRRI Webinar and Reports

The National Regulatory Research Institute (NRRI), a research organization that serves state utility regulatory commissions, will hold a webinar on the topic of “*How States Can Achieve Effective Clean-Energy Policies despite Constraints, Tensions, and Conflicting Objectives.*” It will take place on Thursday, November 10th starting at 2 PM EST. You are all invited to participate in this webinar.

The webinar will explore how the differing perspectives of policymakers, including legislators, regulators, renewable-energy-industry participants, and even ratepayers, help shape the renewable-energy policy landscape and can contribute to conflict between various policy objectives. It will consider how to create a balance between least-cost procurement and other competing energy policy objectives. Speakers will include Tom Stanton of NRRI, Robert Grace of Sustainable Energy Advantage, Elise Herzig of the Ontario Energy Association, and Warren Leon of CESA. You can learn more about the webinar and sign up by going to <http://eventcallregistration.com/reg/index.jsp?cid=26120t11>.

The webinar seeks to address the issues raised in two recent NRRI reports: *When Renewable Energy Policy Objectives Conflict: A Guide for Policymakers* and *A Guide for Ontario Energy Policy Makers: Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis to Develop Sound Energy Policy & Promote Green Energy*. They are available at http://nrri2.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=15&Itemid=48.

News Updates

California Updates Program Handbooks

The California Public Utilities Commission has just completed updates to the *California Solar Program Initiative Handbook* (http://www.gosolarcalifornia.ca.gov/documents/CSI_HANDBOOK.PDF) and the California Energy Commission has issued a new edition of its *Renewable Portfolio Standard Eligibility Guidebook* for comment (<http://www.energy.ca.gov/2011publications/CEC-300-2011-008/CEC-300-2011-008-SD.pdf>). Because both of these documents are thorough and provide detailed guidance on many aspects of RPS administration, they may be of interest to RPS administrators and policymakers in other states.

Arizona Supreme Court Rules that the State’s RPS Is Legal

Justin Barnes of the North Carolina Solar Center and the DSIRE website reports that the Arizona Supreme Court ruled in favor of the legality of the Arizona RPS as developed by the Arizona Corporation Commission. The ruling affirmed a lower court decision and dismissed a challenge to the RPS by the Goldwater Institute, which had argued that the Commission exceeded its authority to regulate utility rates when it required utilities to procure increasing amounts of renewable energy. As Barnes notes, “Arizona and New York are the only states which have RPS policies not backed by specific legislative authority to do so.” For a news article on the situation in Arizona, see http://www.eastvalleytribune.com/arizona/article_b2b6d65a-e3ea-11e0-a0ec-001cc4c03286.html.

Vermont Public Service Board Recommends that the State Adopt an RPS

In response to a request from the Vermont legislature, the Vermont Public Service Board issued a study on renewable energy policy options and recommended that the state adopt a binding RPS for the first time. The Board’s proposal is that “Vermont adopt an RPS with an overall renewable electricity requirement of 75% of total load, with 40% of total load derived from maintenance of the state’s existing percentage of renewable resources, 25% of total load derived from new renewable resources commissioned after 2004, and 10% of total load derived from new in-state renewable distributed generation commissioned after 2012.” The legislature is expected to debate the matter in the coming year.

As part of the research for the Board’s recommendation, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) commissioned CESA and Sustainable Energy Advantage to write a report

on renewable energy options for Vermont. CESA intends to convert some of the non-state-specific information and advice in that report (e.g., the sections on “policy goals and their implications for RPS design” and “analysis of program design options”) into a more general report for the State-Federal RPS Collaborative. It will be available in several months. To see the Vermont Public Service Board’s study, go to <http://psb.vermont.gov/sites/psb/files/publications/Reports%20to%20legislature/RPSreport2011/Study%20on%20Renewable%20Electricity%20Requirements%20-%20Final.pdf>.

State-Federal RPS Collaborative webpage on CESA Website

CESA has revamped its website (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/). 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 listserve (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 listserve, please email Maria@cleanegroup.org and put “States Advancing RPS” in the subject line. Thank you!

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/>