

January

Happy New Year! This year will bring several key activities and new reports for the State-Federal RPS Collaborative. We are looking forward to an informative continuation of our collaboration. I encourage you to continue to send in news, opinions, and suggestions so that we can make sure that the RPS Collaborative is useful to you in your efforts to build and implement effective state RPSs.

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Newsletter Spotlights

- **Reverse Auction Webinar on Jan. 27th - Register Now!**
- **Vermont Proposes 90% Renewables Goal**
- **Largest New Mexico Utility's Renewables Plan Rejected**
- **Long-Term Contracts for SRECs in Delaware**
- **Linking Solar Installations to Manufacturing in San Antonio**
- **Two New Reports**

Upcoming Webinar

Reverse Auction Webinar

On Friday, January 27th from 1:00 – 2:30 EST, there will be a webinar on the intriguing policy mechanism of reverse auctions. Reverse auctions can be an efficient way to secure the maximum renewable energy at the lowest cost. This approach requires developers to compete against one another on a cost basis with the lowest price bids into the auction, expressed in kWh generated per dollar, winning the auction. The webinar will describe the advantages and disadvantages of the reverse auction approach and will give special attention to California's Renewable Auction Mechanism, which is currently being used for projects sized between 1 MW and 20 MW with RPS-eligible technologies. The speakers will be Neil Auerbach (Founder and Managing Partner of Hudson Clean Energy Partners), Jaclyn Marks (Senior Policy Analyst at the California Public Utilities Commission), and Bruce Phillips (Director at the NorthBridge Group). You can reserve your Webinar seat now at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/882439417>.

News Updates from Around the Country

Vermont Proposes 90% Renewables Goal

The Vermont Department of Public Service, at Governor Peter Shumlin's request, has issued the state's first comprehensive energy plan since the 1990s. The plan recommends setting a highly ambitious goal of getting 90% of the state's energy, including for transportation and heating, from renewable sources by 2050. For the electricity sector, the plan recommends that the state establish a Renewable Portfolio Standard with a goal of obtaining 75% of the state's electricity from renewables within 20 years. The state's Board of Public Service, at the request of the legislature, had previously made similar recommendations for an RPS. Later this year, the legislature is expected to take up the issue of whether to establish an RPS. Information about the comprehensive energy plan, including a one-sheet overview and the full plan, is available at www.vtenergyplan.vermont.gov.

Largest New Mexico Utility's Renewables Plan Rejected

After Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM) submitted a 2012 renewables procurement plan that would have fallen short of the state's RPS target for the year, the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission rejected the plan and asked the utility to submit a revised version. The Commission was concerned that PNM's plan would not bring significant additional renewables online and the Commissioners expressed their belief that the RPS remained reasonable and achievable. PNM is the largest utility in the state with about a half-million customers.

Long-Term Contracts for SRECs in Delaware

Justin Barnes of DSIRE reports that, "In December 2011 the Delaware Public Service Commission issued a final order approving Delmarva Power's plan to offer a pilot program for the purchase of solar renewable energy certificates (SRECs) through long-term contracts." The Commission has retained a consultant to evaluate the pilot program and determine whether it should be extended and/or expanded. The pilot program will likely start sometime in 2012.

Linking Solar Installations to Manufacturing in San Antonio

Adam Browning of Vote Solar has brought to our attention some interesting information about the ways in which solar energy policy can be linked to the expansion of local manufacturing. An article on Vote Solar's website discusses the Arizona Renewable Incentive Tax Program and how an interesting variation on it is being used in San Antonio by the municipal utility. "[T]he idea is essentially to buy massive amounts of solar, but require the seller to set up a local manufacturing plant to supply it." You can read more at <http://votesolar.org/2011/12/solar-manufacturing-the-texas-way>. And you can read about the result of the program at www.mysanantonio.com/news/energy/article/CPS-is-set-to-name-solar-plant-selection-2461749.php.

New Publications

Report on Potential RPS Impacts in Kentucky

Legislation has been introduced in Kentucky to establish a renewable and energy efficiency portfolio standard. The Mountain Association for Community Economic Development and the Kentucky Sustainable Energy Alliance contracted with Synapse Energy Economics to analyze the potential economic impacts of that standard. The report has now been released and it projects that a combined renewable and energy efficiency standard "would create over 28,000 net additional job-years in Kentucky by 2022," would diversify the electricity supply, and would lead to electricity bills 8-10% lower in 2022 than under a business as usual scenario. The report is a good example of how to study and evaluate the potential impacts of an RPS. The report is available at www.maced.org/files/Potential_Impacts_of_REPS_in_KY.pdf.

Report on Comparative PV Incentive Programs

As part of the Connecticut Energy Investment and Finance Authority's efforts to design a revised residential solar program, the agency solicited input from Kim Peterson, Senior Engineer at the National Renewable Energy Lab. Peterson collected and compared data on solar incentive levels in various states. The resulting report, *Comparative Analysis of Residential PV Incentive Programs*, may be of interest to people in states beyond Connecticut. It is available at: www.ctcleanenergy.com/Portals/0/CEFIA%20residential%20PV%20white%20paper_120511%20%282%29a.pdf. The Connecticut solar program is expected to be released soon and we will report on it in this newsletter when it is.

State-Federal RPS Collaborative webpage on Clean Energy States Alliance (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 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 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/>