



Southern Alliance for  
**Clean Energy**

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# Renewable Energy In Florida

## **REAL ENERGY SOLUTIONS: A Renewable Energy Standard**

### **What is a Renewable Energy Standard?**

A renewable energy standard, also known as a renewable portfolio standard, is a market-based mechanism that requires utilities to gradually increase the portion of electricity produced from renewable resources, such as plant and animal matter (biomass), solar and wind. As of 2007, 24 states and the District of Columbia have renewable energy requirements.

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A Great Blue Heron in the Florida Everglades

### **A Federal Renewable Energy Standard Will:**

- ✓ Stabilize volatile natural gas prices
  - ✓ Hedge against energy supply shortages and disruptions
  - ✓ Diversify our energy supply with clean, local resources
  - ✓ Avoid a growing dependence on natural gas
  - ✓ Reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, reduce emissions of harmful air pollution and cut water use
  - ✓ Create local markets, jobs, and bring added value to farms and rural businesses
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**A federal renewable energy standard, if enacted, would require that up to 15% of our nation's electricity would come from renewable resources and energy efficiency by 2020.**

### **The Renewable Energy Standard Relies on Market Forces**

- The renewable energy standard uses tradable "renewable energy credits" to achieve compliance at the lowest cost
- This market-based approach creates competition among renewable energy generators, providing the greatest amount of clean power for the lowest price and creates an ongoing incentive to drive down costs.

**A renewable energy standard is an important economic tool to create jobs and income for Florida farmers, scientists and entrepreneurs.**

## ***What is Florida's Renewable Energy Potential?***

Renewable energy resources such as solar power and plant and animal matter (biomass) are found in abundance in Florida. In fact, Florida has more domestic renewable resources than traditional fossil fuels. When power plants co-fire coal with woody biomass (such as yard clippings) they see dramatic reductions in harmful pollution.



The Sunshine state can harness the power of the sun to create clean electricity.

## ***80% of our Energy Dollars Are Sent Out of State***

- 80 cents out of every dollar leaves the state to purchase fuels like coal and natural gas.<sup>1</sup>
- A renewable energy standard would secure a small percentage of our energy dollars to be dedicated to homegrown efficiency and renewable energy projects.



Solar Source technicians installing a domestic hot water unit (DHW) on a home in Seminole, FL. Solar DHW can reduce a power bill in a single family home by up to 40%.

## ***Clean Energy Will Create Jobs and Save Money for Floridians***

- Energy efficiency can cut electricity demand by 19.9%<sup>2</sup>
- Renewable energy can cut electricity demand by another 9.5% by 2023<sup>2</sup>
- A Federal RES would save consumers \$28 billion in lower natural gas bills.<sup>2</sup>
- Developing clean energy creates 14,000 jobs.<sup>2</sup>

Florida is the most vulnerable state in the Southeast to the impacts of global warming including sea level rise, storm surges and increasing storm intensity. A renewable energy standard is one solution for reducing carbon dioxide emissions to help prevent the most severe consequences of global warming.

## ***What can you do to help?***

- **Ask your U.S. Senators and Representative to support a renewable energy portfolio standard in Congress and create a clean energy economy today.**
- **Join the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy so we may keep you updated on key energy votes and developments on clean energy issues.**

1. Rocky Mountain Institute, Resource Efficient Design Workshop, December 4, 2003, at [http://www.kohalacenter.org/green\\_workshop\\_03.html](http://www.kohalacenter.org/green_workshop_03.html)

2. American Council for An Energy Efficient Economy: "Potential for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy to Meet Florida's Growing Energy Demands," April 2007

**For more information contact Southern Alliance for Clean Energy  
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