



# Renewable Energy In Georgia

## **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, over a given time period. As of 2007, 24 states and the District of Columbia have enacted minimum renewable energy requirements.



Georgia Pines  
US Fish and Wildlife Service

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

- ✓ Protect against increasing and volatile fossil fuel prices by stabilizing electricity 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

**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 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 development tool to create jobs and income for Georgia farmers, scientists, and entrepreneurs.**

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

Renewable energy resources such as solar power, wind power, and energy generated from plant and animal matter (biomass) can all be found in Georgia. There is a growing movement worldwide to increase the supply of dependable renewable energy to supplement the current practice of burning coal and using nuclear energy, which have devastating impacts on our ecosystems.



Coal and nuclear power dominate electricity generation in Georgia; coal-fired power plants supply more than three-fifths of the state's electricity output, while nuclear power plants supply approximately one-fourth. All of the coal and uranium used in these power plants is imported from out of state.<sup>1</sup>

## ***Clean Energy Will Create New Jobs and Save Money for Georgians:***

- Georgia has enough biomass potential to meet 12% of the state's energy needs.<sup>2</sup> The Georgia Wind Resource Map identifies over 10,000 MW of wind energy potential off Georgia's coast.<sup>3</sup> By tapping into these resources new jobs will be created in Georgia.
- A study conducted by the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority determined that with a moderate amount of education and financial incentives, Georgia could save a total of \$1.6 billion dollars through energy efficiency over a ten year period.<sup>4</sup>

## ***Renewable Energy Is Reliable and Affordable***

- The fuel for renewable energy, such as solar and wind, is free. The more we build and the more we can manufacture, the cheaper renewables will become.
- Renewable energy development can also improve overall system reliability by helping to diversify a utility's resource portfolio.

## ***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. [http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/state/state\\_energy\\_profiles.cfm?sid=GA](http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/state/state_energy_profiles.cfm?sid=GA)
2. <http://www.caed.uga.edu/publications/2003/pdf/FR-03-06.pdf>
3. <http://www.gawwg.org/BruceBaileyGAWindConference10-24-06.pdf>
4. Georgia Energy Review 2005 (March 2006) <http://www.gefa.org>

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