



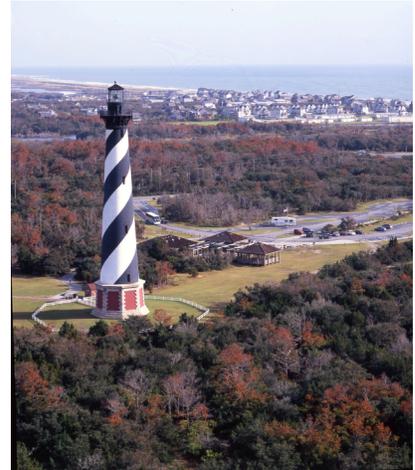
Southern Alliance for
Clean Energy

Renewable Energy In North Carolina

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.



Cape Hatteras Lighthouse

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.

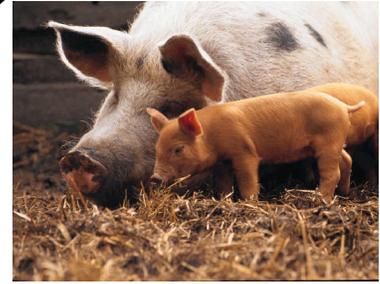
The Renewable Energy Standard Relies on Market Forces

- 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 North Carolina farmers, scientists and entrepreneurs.

What is North Carolina's Renewable Energy Potential?

North Carolina is rich with renewable biomass energy resources, such as wood waste, animal waste and landfill gas. Modest amounts of solar and wind energy are also cost-effective. 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 North Carolina; coal-fired power plants supply more than three-fifths of our state's electricity output, while nuclear power plants supply nearly a third. All of the coal and uranium used in these power plants is imported from out of state.¹

Clean Energy Will Create New Jobs and Save Money for North Carolinians

- North Carolina has enough biomass potential to meet 14% of the state's energy needs. *The North Carolina Biomass Roadmap* identified over 259 trillion BTUs of biomass energy potential in the state.²
- A study conducted by the Perryman Group showed that a federal renewable energy standard would create more than 94,000 new jobs in North Carolina, and increase economic activity in the state by \$6 billion.³

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 utilities 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=NC
2. [The North Carolina Biomass Roadmap: Recommendations for Fossil Fuel Displacement through Biomass Utilization](#), Ben Rich, Kurt Creamer, Bill Schy, et al; North Carolina Solar Center, May 2007.
3. [Redefining the Prospects for Sustainable Prosperity](#), The Perryman Group, November 2003. www.apolloalliance.org/jobs/index.cfm

**For more information contact Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
1-866-522-SACE (7223) or www.cleanenergy.org
In North Carolina: 919-254-6776**