

# The Long and Winding Road: Building Support for National Climate Policy & Opportunities for the SE

**Southern Alliance for Clean Energy  
Webinar Series**

**September 24, 2009**

**Jennifer Rennicks**



# About SACE

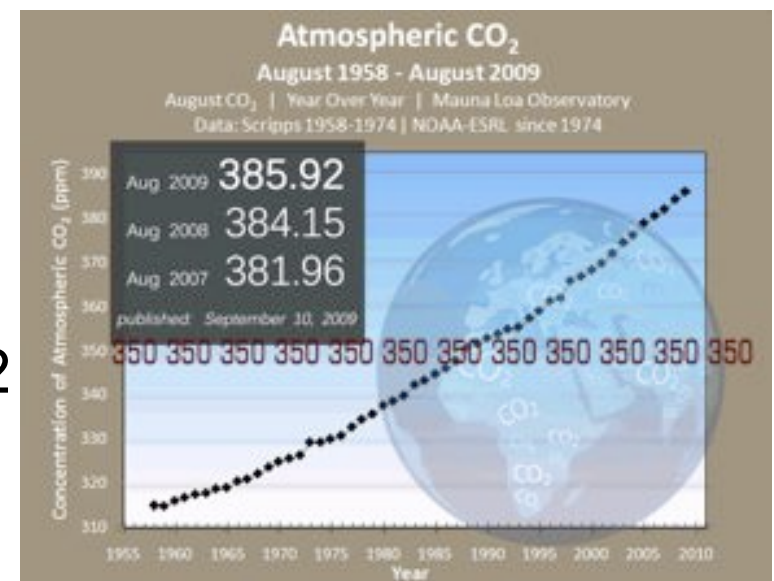
- Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE) has been seeking global warming solutions to ensure clean, safe and healthy communities throughout the Southeast for more than 20 years.
- Since its formal inception in 1985, SACE has grown from a small group of individuals into a dynamic regional organization, with five offices across the Southeast and initiatives at federal, state and local levels.
- SACE is committed to preserving, restoring and protecting our environment through innovative technology, public education and advocacy.



For more information about Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, please visit [www.cleanenergy.org](http://www.cleanenergy.org).

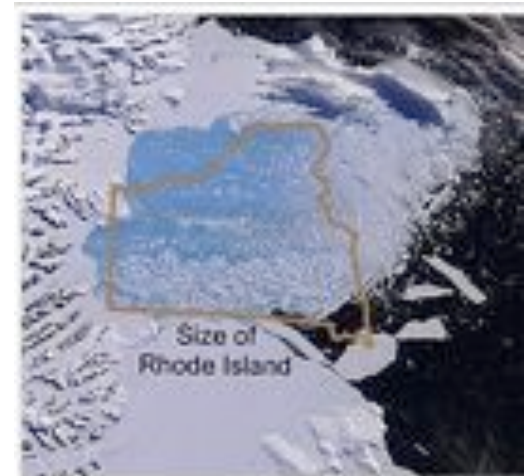
# The Road to Climate Policy: A Slow Start

- Jean-Baptiste Fourier describes the greenhouse effect – **1824**
- Svante Arrhenius describes how burning fossil fuels produces CO<sub>2</sub>, suggesting humans increase greenhouse gasses - **1896**
- Measurements of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> begin at NOAA's Mauna Loa observatory in Hawaii – **1958**
- First IPCC report confirms levels of manmade greenhouse gases are increasing, and will cause global warming – **1990**



# The Road to Climate Policy: Gradually Momentum Builds

- 'Carbon footprint' appears in print – **1999**
- Antarctic peninsula's Larsen B ice shelf collapses into the sea – **2002**
- Busiest hurricane season on record, with 28 named storms and 15 hurricanes, including Katrina – **2005**
- Al Gore and IPCC share the Nobel Peace Prize for efforts to spread awareness of climate change – **2007**



# The Road to Climate Policy: Is the Time at Hand?

**“The threat from climate change is serious, it is urgent, and it is growing... No nation, however large or small, wealthy or poor, can escape the impact of climate change... We must seize the opportunity to make Copenhagen a significant step forward in the global fight against climate change.”**

*President Obama, Address to the United Nations,  
September 22, 2009*



# The Road to Climate Policy: By the Numbers

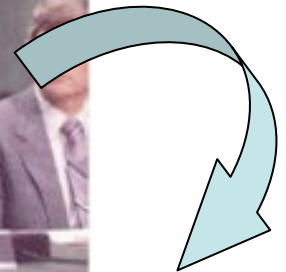
- **17** - years since international negotiations began seeking a binding climate treaty - Convention on Climate Change
- **183** – nations that ratified the Kyoto Protocol as of February 2009
- **1** – industrialized nation still yet to ratify – the United States





# The Road to Climate Policy: By the Numbers

- **21** - years since Congress held the first climate-focused hearings with Dr. Jim Hansen
- **8** – climate bills introduced in Congress since 2007
- **4** - votes on bills to limit GHG emissions: US Senate in 2003, 2005, 2008; US House in 2009
- **1** - successful vote to limit GHG emissions: June 23, 2009



# The Road to Climate Policy: By the Numbers

- **28** – states with climate action plans
- **12** – states with actual GHG emission reduction targets

Climate Action Plans



State GHG Emission Targets





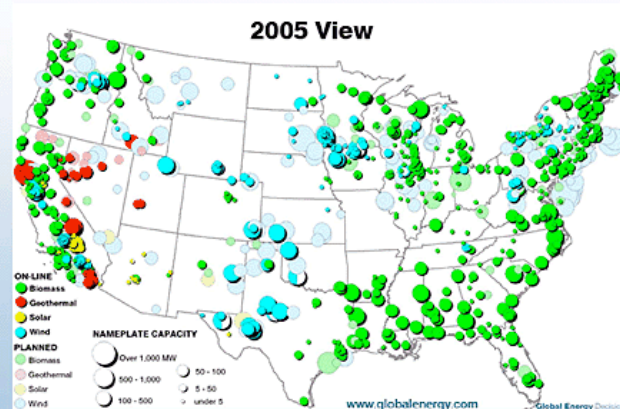
# The Road to Climate Policy: By the Numbers

- **36** – states with renewable energy standards or goals
- **50** – states with renewable energy potential

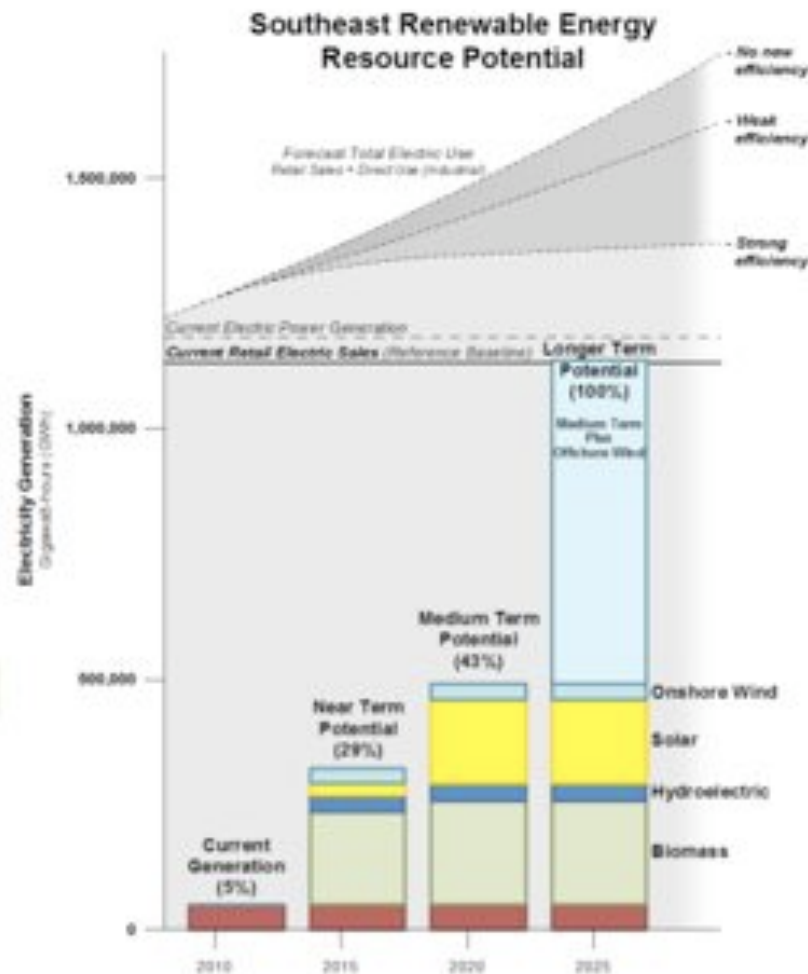


■ Renewable Portfolio Standard  
■ Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard  
■ Renewable or Alternative Energy Goal

## Renewable Generation, 2005



# The Road to Climate Policy: Renewable Energy Potential in SE



***Yes We Can – Southern  
Solutions for a National  
Renewable Energy  
Standard***

*Published February 2009*

[http://www.cleanenergy.org/  
images/files/  
SERenewables022309rev.pdf](http://www.cleanenergy.org/images/files/SERenewables022309rev.pdf)

# The Road to Climate Policy: Renewable Energy Potential in SE

**Renewable Energy Opportunities Across the Southeast**

State	Electric Power Generation (avg GWh, 2005-07)	Renewable Share of Generation	Feasible Renewable Resource Potential (Relative to 2006 retail sales)				Breakthrough Technologies
			Current	Near-Term	Medium-Term	Longer-Term	
Alabama	137,694	8 %	12 %	41 %	61 %	61 %	Geothermal
Arkansas	51,113	8 %	9 %	75 %	112 %	112 %	Geothermal
Florida <sup>1</sup>	220,931	2 %	2 %	11 %	20 %	21 %	Ocean current
Georgia	139,597	4 %	4 %	25 %	39 %	78 %	Ocean current
Kentucky	97,094	3 %	3 %	26 %	39 %	39 %	
Louisiana	91,475	4 %	5 %	32 %	51 %	51 %	Geothermal
Mississippi	47,098	3 %	3 %	77 %	113 %	113 %	Geothermal
North Carolina	126,974	4 %	4 %	29 %	42 %	250 %	Ocean current
South Carolina	101,129	3 %	3 %	21 %	33 %	242 %	Ocean current
Tennessee	93,669	6 %	7 %	31 %	44 %	44 %	
Virginia	76,087	3 %	2 %	20 %	31 %	179 %	Ocean current
Southeastern States	1,182,861	4 %	5 %	29 %	43 %	100 %	

# The Road to Climate Policy: Three Pillars of Effective Policy

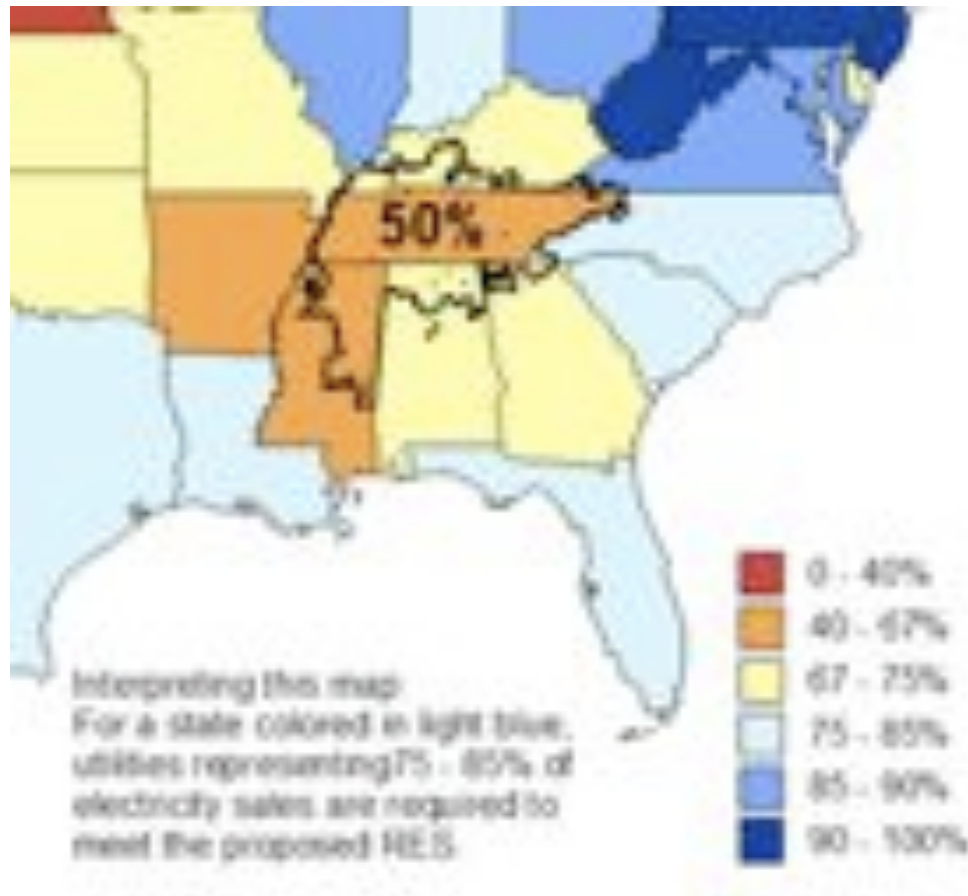
- Capping GHG emissions in line with science: 80% by 2050
- Renewable Electricity Standard: 25% by 2025
- Energy Efficiency Resource Standard: 25% by 2020



# The Road to Climate Policy: Congressional Action

- HR 2454: American Clean Energy & Security Act
  - Emission Reduction Targets
    - 28% below 2005 levels by 2020
    - 76% below 2005 levels by 2050
  - Combined Efficiency & Renewable Energy Standard
    - 20% by 2020; EE meeting 5-8% of the standard

# How the CERES in ACES would Impact the SE



Taken from SACE's blog:  
*[http:  
blog.cleanenergy.org/  
2009/05/26/tva-res-  
exemption/](http://blog.cleanenergy.org/2009/05/26/tva-res-exemption/)*



# The Road to Climate Policy: Congressional Action

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  - Combined Efficiency & Renewable Energy Standard
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- Energy & Commerce Committee passed 5/21/09
- House of Representatives passed 6/26/09

# The Road to Climate Policy: Congressional Action

- S 1462 American Clean Energy Leadership Act
  - Includes a Renewable & Energy Efficiency Standard for Utilities
    - 15% by 2021; EE meeting up to 5% of the standard
  - Increase building efficiency standards
  - Increases investments in energy research
- Energy & Natural Resources Committee passed 6/17/09

# The Road to Climate Policy: Looking Ahead

- Senate Climate Legislation expected soon
  - Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
  - Other committees expected to weigh in: Agriculture, Finance, Commerce, Foreign Relations, etc
- Comprehensive climate & energy package for full Senate consideration
  - Uncertain timetable for action



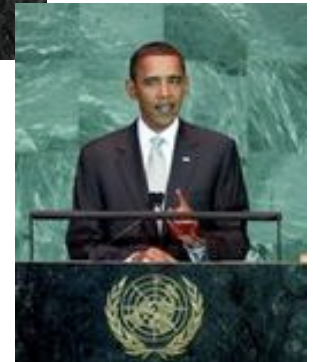
# The Road to Climate Policy: Regulatory Action

- Massachusetts vs. EPA
  - April 2007: Supreme Court Decision
  - April 2009: Endangerment Findings
  - June 2009: Public hearings & comment period
- Clean Cars Standards
  - September 2009: CAFÉ and GHG Emissions from cars rules



# The Road to Climate Policy: Climate Week

- UN's Climate Change Summit
  - China's policy more visible
  - US's remains vague on intentions
- G-20 Economic Summit
  - Group of 20 leaders gathering today and tomorrow in Pittsburgh
  - Discussing how to green the global economic recovery efforts – and the lead up to Copenhagen



THE PITTSBURGH G-20 |

# The Road to Climate Policy: Copenhagen

- UN Climate Negotiation
  - 15th Gathering of the Conference of the Parties
  - ~200 countries to convene
  - Hopeful outcome: global agreement on limits to climate changing emissions



UNITED NATIONS  
CLIMATE CHANGE  
CONFERENCE  
DEC 7-DEC 18  
2009



# The Road to Climate Policy: Stepping up to the Plate

- US Climate Action Partnership
  - advocating that the federal government enact strong, national climate legislation
- Forged letters to Congress
  - Urging votes against a clean energy and climate bill
- Energy Citizen Rallies
  - Staged rallies with paid workers



# The Road to Climate Policy: Citizen Involvement

- Contact Congress & Push the President
  - Creating thousands of new green jobs
  - Reducing global warming pollution
  - Transitioning to a clean energy future
- Write letters to the editor
- Use social media



## Most Popular Services



# The Road to Climate Policy: Citizen Involvement

- Support and recruit other signers for two SE-focused Senate letters
  - Coastal climate letter
  - Renewable Energy Standard strengthening letter



*Both online under Position Statements:  
[http://www.cleanenergy.org/  
index.php?/Position-Statements.html](http://www.cleanenergy.org/index.php?/Position-Statements.html)*

# The Road to Climate Policy: Citizen Involvement

- Support our national partner: 1Sky
  - Host a Climate Action Party on October 1-3
    - <http://local.1sky.org/en/event/party>
  - Become a Climate Precinct Capitan
    - <http://local.1sky.org/en/>



# The Road to Climate Policy: Citizen Involvement

## ■ Join other upcoming actions

- Powershift 2009 – regional summits on October 17-18
  - <http://www.powershift09.org/>
- 350 International Day of Climate Action on October 24
  - <http://www.350.org/>
- TckTckTck campaign
  - <http://tcktcktck.org/>



# The Road to Climate Policy: Citizen Involvement

- Vote for clean energy candidates in upcoming elections

- SACE Action Fund's Energy & Global Warming Scorecards: <http://www.cleanenergyactionfund.org/>

- League of Conservation Voters Scorecards <http://www.lcv.org/scorecard>

- Conservation Voters of SC Scorecards: <http://www.conservationvotersofsc.org>





# The Road to Climate Policy: Citizen Involvement

- Support SACE to ensure continued work educating and advocating for climate and clean energy policy
  - e-News letters, Action Alerts
  - Interactive website
  - Blog – Footprints on the path to clean energy
  - Member webinars
  - Become a member



footprints  
on the path to clean energy

cleanenergy.org  
Southern Alliance for  
Clean Energy

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# Thank You!

## Questions & Comments?

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