



ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & POLICY CENTER
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ILLINOIS PASSES LEADING RENEWABLE ENERGY & EFFICIENCY STANDARDS
Illinois Can Now Seize Environmental and Economic Benefits of Clean Power

Chicago, IL –Today, Governor Blagojevich signed into law a Renewable Energy Standard (RES) and an Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard (EEPS) that are among the most ambitious in the nation. The RES will require Illinois utilities to supply 2% of their power from renewable energy sources by 2008, 10% by 2015, and 25% by 2025. The EEPS will require Illinois utilities to reduce overall electric usage by 0.2% of demand in 2008 and escalating to 2.0% by 2015.

“These forward-thinking clean energy programs are a key part of the solutions to our global warming problems,” said Howard A. Learner, Executive Director of the Environmental Law & Policy Center. “The legislation will spark a surge in wind power construction and economic development in Illinois. More clean renewable energy is a win-win-win—it’s good for farmers, good for rural economic development and good for the environment. Likewise, the energy efficiency portfolio standard can create jobs, keep energy dollars in Illinois’ economy and avoid pollution that harms our public health and environment.”

Learner added, “We commend Governor Blagojevich, Attorney General Madigan, Senator Harmon, Rep. Nekritz, and the bipartisan group of Democratic and Republican leaders who supported the Renewable Energy Standard being part of the rate solution in Illinois.” The Environmental Law & Policy Center has worked for more than five years with members of the General Assembly to pass meaningful legislation requiring the use of renewable energy.

Wind generation is currently the world’s fastest growing energy source, and Illinois has enough wind power capacity to be a national leader. Illinois is the hub for transmission lines, making connecting new wind projects to the electricity grid more affordable than in other states. There are now 5,500 megawatts of wind power in the development stage in Illinois, according to the Black and Veatch engineering firm’s analysis. That’s enough to power 1.7 million homes.

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Currently, Illinois has four large wind power “farms” operating. The new Twin Groves wind farm near Bloomington will produce 400 megawatts of power by the end of 2007, making it the largest wind power farm east of the Mississippi River. Crescent Ridge in Bureau County and Mendota Hills in Lee County each produce more than 50 megawatts of electricity. The GSG wind power farm in Lee and LaSalle Counties is currently producing 80 megawatts. “We can now hit the ground running and become a national leader in renewable energy production,” added Learner. “That will bring thousands of jobs to the state, millions of dollars in rural economic development and a more stable electricity market for Illinois consumers. By expanding renewable energy and requiring greater energy efficiency, we will reduce pollution and stabilize energy costs.”

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