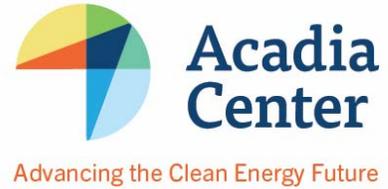


Connecticut Clean Energy Legislation

RPS, Offshore Wind, and Solar

2017 Legislative Session



The Opportunity

The 2017 legislative session provides a significant opportunity to advance Connecticut's clean energy economy. The legislative reforms outlined below would help Connecticut make smart, strategic investments in pro-consumer renewable energy. The benefits would be many and lasting: increased bill savings for residents and businesses, cleaner air for all communities, more in-state jobs in the expanding clean energy sector, and increased economic growth overall.

Increase the Renewable Portfolio Standard

The existing renewable portfolio standard provides insufficient support for renewables after 2020, and is modest in comparison to neighboring states (New York has committed to 50% renewables by 2030, and Rhode Island will achieve 38.5% renewables by 2035). In order to continue reducing greenhouse gas emissions and make progress toward a 100% renewable energy system, Connecticut should:

- Increase the RPS requirement for Class I renewables to 50% by 2030
- Avoid authorizing enhanced ratepayer support for existing nuclear generation

Launch the Offshore Wind Industry in Connecticut

Offshore wind is one of the most abundant clean energy resources available to Connecticut, and development of offshore wind could help to revitalize shoreline communities. Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New York have all committed to support offshore wind and are positioned to capture a share of the 160,000 jobs that the Department of Energy projects the industry to produce. To launch the offshore wind industry and maximize its share of this economic growth opportunity, CT should:

- Establish a dedicated 2,000 MW set-aside for offshore wind in the RPS
- Require utility solicitations for long term contracts for offshore wind in order to secure project financing (likely through multi-state procurements)

Scale Up Solar Deployment, Improve Compensation Mechanisms, and Share Benefits Equitably

Connecticut's solar industry is growing, but lags other states in the region such as Massachusetts and New York. For solar deployment and employment to expand rapidly in Connecticut while also ensuring the equitable distribution of benefits and costs, several steps are required, including:

- Extend the existing ZREC program for several years
- Expand community solar and include robust low-income component
- Reform net metering with monetary crediting and value-based credits
- Avoid a moratorium on solar deployment on agricultural lands

For more information:

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