

ACT

Alliance for a Clean Texas

ACT Fact Sheet: Clean Energy

Bills on Emerging Renewable Technology Goals in the 81st Texas State Legislature

Legislation Creating 4,000 MW Emerging Renewable Technologies by 2020:

SB 1419 (Lucio) and HB 3478 (Gallego) – Seeks to create new emerging renewable technologies by requiring a general build up of at least 4,000 MW of electrical generating capacity from non- “High Capacity Wind” renewables by 2020. Technologies that would qualify would include geothermal, solar, landfill gas, tidal, small-scale wind and renewable biomass. The bill also seeks to define renewable biomass in line with federal definitions contained in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, definitions that are likely to be adopted in a federal Renewable Portfolio Standard. The bill also requires that the PUC shall establish an alternative compliance payment for those utilities choosing not to invest in these new emerging technologies.

Representative Gonzalez Toureilles (HB 3145)- Seeks to create new emerging renewable technologies by requiring a general build up of at least 4,000 MW of electrical generating capacity from small-scale wind and other emerging technologies by 2020. Technologies that would qualify would include geothermal, solar, landfill gas, tidal, small-scale wind and renewable biomass. The bill also seeks to define renewable biomass in line with federal definitions contained in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, definitions that are likely to be adopted in a federal Renewable Portfolio Standard. The bill also states that the PUC may establish an alternative compliance payment for those utilities choosing not to invest in these new emerging technologies.

Legislation Creating 3,000 MW Emerging Renewable Technologies by 2020/2025:

Senator Ellis (SB 435) – Requires that an additional 3000 MWs of renewable electricity capacity be established by 2020 for use by retail electric providers, municipal utilities and electric cooperatives during times of peak load and that the Commission establish a peak load renewable energy credit trading program. Allows large industrial users to be exempt from the section if requested.

Senator Ellis (SB 436) -- Requires that an additional 3000 MWs of renewable electricity capacity be established by 2020 for use by retail electric providers, municipal utilities and electric cooperatives to meet base load demands and that the Commission establish a base load renewable energy credit trading program. Allows large industrial users to be exempt from the section if requested.

SB 541 by Watson - Seeks to create renewable energy manufacturing jobs in Texas by giving extra credit for electricity produced by equipment that is made in Texas. The bill increases the goal for renewable energy and seeks to expand on Texas' success with wind power, by setting a 3,000 megawatt goal for non-wind renewable generation in Texas.

SB 2020 by Watson/HB 4327 by Strama - Calls for a gradual build up to 3,000 megawatts of "tier 2" renewable generation by 2020. Includes a provision offering extra credit for renewable electricity produced from generation equipment that is manufactured in TX; allows for up to 1,000 MW of the tier 2 goal to be met through renewable storage; and provides business certainty by establishing a price cap on a tier 2 alternative compliance payment.

Senator Huffman (SB 1423) and Representative Farabee (HB 2850) – Establishes the 2025 overall Renewable Portfolio Standard 10,000 MW is a mandatory goal and not just a target, and states that at least by January 1, 2015, and the 2025 target to 11,000 MWs and establishes a goal of 3,000 MWs by 2025 from technologies other than wind.

Representative Swinford (HB 2520) – Creates a separate emerging renewable energy resources portfolio standard of 3,000 MWs by 2020 for technologies other than large wind, and creates an emerging renewable energy credits trading program for these resources. The bill also requires that the PUC establish an alternative compliance payment for those entities preferring not to apply renewable energy credits to meet their requirements, and puts in a cost cap on the compliance payment.

Other Goals and Targets:

Senator Shapleigh (SB 620) – Raises the 2015 overall Renewable Portfolio Standard goal to 6,880 MWs by January 1, 2015, and the 2025 target to 11,000 MWs and establishes a target of 1,500 MWs by 2015 from technologies other than wind.

Representative Christian (HB 2194) – Seeks to create new emerging renewable technologies by requiring that at least 500 MW of additional renewable energy capacity be created by 2017 from other than wind technologies.