

Talking Points for REV Hearings

100% Renewables Now NY and Green Education and Legal Fund

New York Needs to Significantly Increase its Goal for Renewables to 100% by 2030

New York State 2015 State Energy Plan specifies a 50% by 2030 renewable energy goal. We recommend that the goal be amended to 100% clean energy by 2030 (excluding nuclear, natural gas, garbage incineration), or at least net zero greenhouse gas emissions. The state also needs to adopt a goal of keeping increases in global temperatures to below 1.5 degrees centigrade; even that is no assurance that catastrophic climate change will be avoided. To achieve goals needed to avoid catastrophic climate change will require a much stronger commitment to developing renewable energy than currently outlined in the LSR (Large Scale Renewable) proposal.

REV Existing Proposals for LSR and Clean Energy Fund are Too Weak to Meet even its Limited Goal of 50% renewables for electricity by 2030

New York's expiring Renewable Portfolio Standard and other initiatives fell significantly short of meeting its goal of 30% renewable energy by 2030. In addition to increasing the goals moving forward, New York needs to establish firm goals and mandates for individual utilities, including LIPA, related to renewables. The state needs to more aggressively promote higher goals for energy efficiency, distributive energy and Large Scale Renewables.

LSR Should Have a Carve Out for Off-Shore Wind, with a PPA for 5,000 MW by 2025 and 10,000 MW by 2030

There needs to be a major carve out for off-shore wind. Offshore wind has great potential in New York and it will be necessary to attract offshore wind development to New York in order to meet the state's renewable energy goals. The state should commit to a PPA (Power Purchase Agreement) of 5,000 MW of off-shore wind by 2025 and 10,000 MW by 2030.

Enact a State Carbon / Greenhouse Gas Tax (A8372 / S6037) To Help Account for the External Cost of Burning Fossil Fuels

The State should enact a carbon tax. The PSC should support the commissioning of an independent, objective study of a state carbon tax similar to what was done in Oregon and Massachusetts. Since the state is relying upon market forces to promote renewables and reduce carbon emissions, it is imperative that the state immediately enact a carbon (greenhouse gas) tax to adequately capture the costs and damage imposed upon the state and its residents from the burning of fossil fuels. Without a robust carbon tax there is no possibility that the market can adequately promote the correct energy mixture.

The State Needs to Significantly Increase its goal for Energy Efficiency

The PSC has reduced efficiency goals for utilities statewide to a fraction of a percentage point, just 0.37% for 2016—an astoundingly weak goal in the face of more ambitious goals in nearby states. Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Vermont have exceeded 2% annual efficiency goals.

REV Should Support Increased Public and Community Ownership of Energy

We were pleased that NYS came out in support of community shared renewables and look forward to additional action to promote its development. We also appreciate REV's support for Community Choice Aggregation and hope the PSC will help promote its adoption statewide, while making it a priority to support renewables rather than natural gas.

The transition to a decentralized energy system based on renewables is an opportunity to empower local ownership and control. REV should continue to support the expansion of shared community ownership. As renewable energy has become cost competitive with other forms of energy – especially for on shore wind and solar - the state should provide up front public financing to expedite the transition NYPA should employ such a model to rapidly expand the installation of solar, energy conservation and other renewable energy systems across the state. Utilities should be required to procure energy from a certain percentage of local/community owned energy projects in their territories.

REV Needs to Say No to Fossil Fuels, Natural Gas – Halt All Related Infrastructure Investment

The flip side of having a goal of 50% renewables by 2030 means that the state now has a goal of limiting electricity from non-renewables, including natural gas, to only 50%. The state's tables in the Energy Plan demonstrates that NY already exceeds that limit of 50% in terms of non-renewables. Thus any further investment in natural gas or fossil fuel infrastructure contradicts such goal. This starts with the Gov. vetoing the Pt. Ambrose LNG facility. And saying no to bailout of coal plants. The PSC is undermining the goals of REV by bailing out dirty, unprofitable coal plants. Unnecessary coal bailouts cost ratepayers hundreds of millions of dollars and continue to expose New Yorkers to harmful air and water pollution, all while taking us years backward in our efforts to cut carbon emissions.

Achieving climate change goals requires more investments in renewables while halting fossil fuel infrastructure. Yet, the state has been doing the opposite, hindering the urgent need to slash greenhouse gas emissions in the next fifteen years, to prevent runaway global warming.

Ensuring a Strong Voice for Low and Moderate income Consumers in REV –

Intervenor funds must be made available for rate cases and energy policy proceedings so that consumer and environmental advocates can level the playing field with utility companies as REV implementation gets underway.

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