

National Renewable Electricity Standard



Stimulating Solar Energy Markets

- A National Renewable Electricity Standard (RES) requires that a certain percentage of energy be generated from renewable sources, such as solar and wind.
- Sometimes also referred to as a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), many states have already implemented aggressive RES.
- Solar markets have experienced dynamic growth in states that have a solar carve-out mandated by the state RES. States with an RES that do not have a solar carve-out usually experience stagnant growth as the current lowest cost providers (usually wind or biomass) are the primary benefactor of the RES.

Solar Provision for an Effective RES

- A solar carve-out requiring that 3 percent of electricity generation come from solar energy.
- Technology diversity to allow photovoltaics, solar water heating, solar space heating and cooling, or utility-scale concentrating solar power to meet the 3 percent solar carve-out.

Solar Facts

Myth: Any national renewable electricity standard would automatically help deploy solar across the country.

Fact: A national renewable electricity standard must include a solar carve-out, or only the current lowest cost provider of renewable electricity will benefit.

Why A Solar Carve-Out Is Needed in RES Legislation

- State solar carve-outs have quickly resulted in hundreds of megawatts of solar
- Aggressive domestic production and deployment of pollution-free solar energy allows us to combat global warming while growing our economy
- The economic downturn makes new high-paying, skilled solar jobs more important than ever
- Federal policy support for solar energy pales in comparison to other countries. Germany last year installed 8 times more solar than the U.S.
- The U.S. has lost its position as the world's leading solar manufacturer



Solar: America's Economic Engine

- With the right federal policies, the solar energy industry will become a robust economic engine for the United States – spurring billions of dollars in economic growth and creating tens of thousands of new jobs.
- Aggressive federal programs, such as a National Renewable Electricity Standard with a solar carve-out, will bring solar energy to price parity with traditional energy sources, saving consumers and businesses billions of dollars in energy costs.

Benefits of Solar Energy

- **Energy Security.** Solar helps to stabilize the grid, provide clean, reliable power, and reduce the impact of natural disasters or terrorist attacks on the nation's energy infrastructure. Producing domestic, clean solar energy will reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy.
- **Peak Energy.** In most of the U.S., peak electric loads occur when solar electricity is near optimal efficiency (9 a.m. – 6 p.m.). Those loads are almost exclusively served by high-cost central station gas generation, often the least efficient gas generation.
- **Job Creation.** All segments of the solar industry require highly-skilled workers. Whether it is manufacturers, distributors, contractors, installers, architects, consultants and financiers, the solar energy industry will create hundreds of thousands of jobs and help put America back to work.
- **Clean Energy.** Solar energy is the cleanest of all renewable energy sources, producing electricity and thermal energy with zero emissions, and no waste byproducts. PV technologies have the added benefit of no water use.



Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) is the national trade association for the solar industry. We work to expand markets, strengthen research and development, remove market barriers, and improve education and outreach for solar.