

Repowering America with Clean, Homegrown Energy:
A summary of different Renewable Electricity Standards in the House and Senate

<i>Provisions</i>	Markey-Platts H.R. 890	Udall S.433	Bingaman Discussion Draft
Required Annual Percentage of Renewable Electricity Generation	6% in 2012 8.5% in 2015 17.5% in 2020 25% in 2025 Requirement increases every 2 years.	<i>Same as H.R. 890</i>	4% (3%) in 2011 8% (6%) in 2015 16% (12%) in 2020 20% (15%) in 2021-2039 Requirement increases every 3 years. Up to 25% of requirement can be met with energy efficiency. The percentage in parentheses above indicates the amount of renewable energy requirement if the efficiency option is fully utilized
Regulated Entities: minimum generation threshold	All electric utilities that sold more than 1 million Megawatt Hours (mWh) of electricity to consumers other than for resale purposes in the previous year.	Privately owned utilities that sold more than 1 million mWh in the previous year.	All electric utilities that sold more than 4 million mWh of electricity in the previous year.
Exempted Utilities	None	Utilities in the state of Hawaii and all publicly owned utilities and rural electric cooperatives. Public utilities and co-ops (as well as utilities under 1 million mWh of sales) can voluntarily comply in order to receive Renewable Energy Credits (RECs).	Utilities in the state of Hawaii
Approximate Coverage of Electricity Sales (UCS Analysis using EIA data, does not consider effect of exempting Hawaii)	88%	73%	79%
Eligible Renewable Energy Sources	Wind, solar (not solar thermal), geothermal, biomass (as defined by the bill), landfill gas, marine and hydrokinetic, and qualified hydropower (includes incremental improvements in efficiency and capacity additions at existing facilities and new capacity at existing non-electric dams)	Wind, solar (not solar thermal), geothermal, biomass (as defined by the bill), landfill gas, ocean, tidal, other hydrokinetic, and incremental hydropower (includes improved efficiency and capacity additions but does not include non-electric dams)	Wind, solar (not solar thermal), geothermal, biomass (as defined by EPACT 2005), landfill gas, ocean energy (includes current, wave, tidal, and thermal energy), and incremental hydropower (includes both improvements to existing hydroelectric facilities and new facilities at existing dams)
Base Quantity of Electricity Used to Determine Requirement	Excludes the amount of electricity generated by a traditional hydroelectric facility (not incremental hydro) and by the combustion of municipal solid waste.	<i>Same as H.R. 890</i>	Same as H.R. 890, with additional exclusion of pumped storage facilities.

<i>Provisions</i>	Markey-Platts H.R. 890	Udall S.433	Bingaman Discussion Draft
Alternative Compliance Payment	The lesser of 200% of the average market value of a REC or 5 cents/kWh (adjusted for inflation).	The lesser of 200% of the average market value of a REC or 3 cents/kWh (adjusted for inflation).	3 cents/kWh (adjusted for inflation)
Penalty and Alternative Compliance Fund	Sets up a fund, subject to appropriations, to distribute money to retail electric suppliers based on the amount of RECs they submit.	Similar to Bingaman discussion draft.	Establishes a fund, subject to appropriations, to provide grants to State agencies responsible for energy conservation plans in order to promote renewable energy production.
CREDIT & TRADING SYSTEM PROVISIONS			
Who receives Renewable Energy Credits (RECs)?	Renewable energy generators receive 1 credit for each Kilowatt Hour (kWh)	<i>Same as H.R. 890</i>	<i>Same as H.R. 890</i>
Is there a distinction between new and existing renewable energy generators?	No. All renewable energy generators receive credits.	<i>Same as H.R. 890</i>	Yes. Existing facilities, defined as being placed in service prior to 2006 receive RECs but they cannot be traded. Facilities placed in service more than 7 years before 2006 receive tradable credits for additional renewable energy generated compared to the annual average of what was generated from 2004 -2006.
Special Credits (Credit Multipliers)	Triple credit for distributed generation (defined as no larger than 2 Megawatts) – with language allowing the Department of Energy to ratchet down the amount of the bonus based on the comparative cost of distributed generation.	Double credit for renewable energy on Indian land and triple credit for distributed generation (defined as no larger than 1 Megawatt). Double credit on Indian land for biomass co-firing only applies to biomass grown on the land.	Double credit for renewable energy on Indian land and triple credit for distributed generation (defined as no larger than 1 Megawatt)
Credits for State Alternative Compliance Mechanisms	Federal RECs will be issued to retail electric suppliers for renewable energy generation that, pursuant to state programs, results from alternative compliance payments or payments to a state procurement fund or entity. In no event will more than 1 Federal REC be issued for the same kWh of electricity.	Similar to H.R. 890, each kWh attributable to state alternative compliance payments or other mechanism is valued at 1 credit per kWh for complying with the Federal requirement.	A utility subject to a state standard receives RECs for the pro-rata share of the quantity of renewable energy resulting from state alternative compliance mechanisms including the payment of taxes, fees, surcharges and other financial obligations.
Excess federal RECs from states with higher standard?	States may choose to retire RECs used to meet higher state standard, rather than trading them to other utilities.	<i>Same as H.R. 890</i>	No specific language.

For more information contact:

Kate Johnson, Sierra Club, kate.johnson@sierraclub.org

Matthew Horowitz, SEIA, mhorowitz@seia.org

Sean Garren, Environment America, seang@environmentamerica.org