



CLEAN AIR
TASK FORCE

RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD AND CLEAN ENERGY STANDARD

California

Policy type

Renewable Portfolio Standard

Clean Energy Standard

Form of the standard

Energy-based RPS

% of renewable energy required

Energy-based CES

% of clean energy required

Targets

- RPS:** Interim – 25% by the end of 2016, 33% by the end of 2020, 44% by the end of 2024, and 52% by the end of 2027; Final – 60% by the end of 2030
- CES:** Interim – 90% by the end of 2035, 95% by the end of 2040; Final – 100% by the end of 2045

Economy-wide goal: AB 1279 (2022) establishes policy to achieve carbon neutrality no later than 2045, maintain net negative greenhouse gas emissions thereafter, and ensure that statewide anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions are reduced by at least 85% below 1990 levels by 2045

Point of regulation: Retail sales

Regulated entities: Retail sellers and municipal entities (“retail seller” means an entity engaged in the retail sale of electricity to end-use customers located within the state)

Percent of retail sales covered by RPS: 99%

Implementing agencies: California Energy Commission (CEC) (certification of source) and California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) (compliance)

Enforcement mechanisms: All costs resulting from nonperformance shall go to load-serving entities that fail to perform. The CPUC is further authorized to assess penalties for noncompliance.

Compliance flexibility and cost containment: The CPUC “shall waive enforcement” if there is insufficient transmission capacity; if permitting, interconnection, or other circumstances delay procurement of renewable resource projects; if there are insufficient renewable resources available; or based on anticipated increase in retail sales due to transportation electrification.

Carve-outs and incentives: N/A

Compliance tracking: [WREGIS](#)

Notable features: Exported carbon free power counts towards CES compliance, which could allow room for some internal load to be met with carbon-emitting resources.

Links to agency website and statutes/rules: [California Administrative Code](#); [Cal. Pub. Util. Code § 454.52](#); [California Releases World's First Plan to Achieve Net Zero Pollution](#); [California Public Utilities Code](#); [Retail Electricity Sales](#); [EPA's REC Tracking Systems](#)

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Eligible sources

RPS

Biogas

Biomass

Clean Hydrogen

Geothermal

Hydropower

Solar

Waste-to-Energy

Wave/Tidal

Wind

CES

Post-2030
Nuclear Energy

See [CA. Pub. Util. Code § 399.12\(e\)](#) for definitions of “eligible renewable energy resources,” and [CA Pub. Resources Code § 25741\(a\)](#) for definitions of “renewable electrical generation facility.” See [2021 SB 100 Joint Agency Report](#) for inclusion of nuclear energy. Certain limits may apply.