



CLEAN AIR
TASK FORCE

RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARD AND CLEAN ENERGY TARGETS

Colorado

Policy type

Renewable Portfolio Standard

Clean Energy Standard

Form of the standard

Energy-based RPS

% of renewable energy required

Emissions-based CES

% of required emissions reductions

Targets

- RPS:** Final – 30% by 2020 and thereafter (investor-owned utilities), 20% by 2020 (large cooperatives), 10% by 2020 (small cooperatives and large municipalities)
- CES:** 80% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2030 from the 2005 baseline, goal of 100% non-CO2 emitting resources by 2050

Economy-wide goal: 50% below 2005 levels by 2030, 100% below 2005 levels by 2050

Point of regulation: In-state emissions

Regulated entities: Binding only on investor-owned utilities serving more than 500,000 customers in state (RPS: [C.R.S. 40-2-124](#); CES: [C.R.S. 40-2-125.5\(2\)\(c\)](#)).

Percent of retail sales covered by RPS: 99%

Implementing agency: Colorado Public Utilities Commission and Air Pollution Control District (APCD)

Enforcement mechanisms: Utilities must include clean energy plans in periodic electric resource plans to be approved by the Commission. The Commission can adopt rules limiting a utility's greenhouse gas emissions and amend its air permits.

Compliance flexibility and cost containment: The Commission may modify the plan based on "public interest" factors including reliability, resilience, and costs

Carve-outs and incentives: Distributed generation carve-out: 3% for investor-owned utilities, 1% for cooperatives that provide service to >10,000 meters, 0.75% for cooperatives that provide service to <10,000 meters; Compliance multipliers for community-based projects and solar

Compliance tracking: [WREGIS](#)

Notable features: Renewable energy storage storing energy produced by eligible renewable energy resources also constitutes an eligible source

Links to agency website and statutes/rules: [Colo. Rev. Stat. § 40-2-124](#); [Colo. Rev. Stat. § 40-2-125.5](#); [State of Colorado Climate Change Goals & Actions](#); [Retail Electricity Sales](#); [EPA's REC Tracking Systems](#)

Eligible sources

RPS

Biogas

Biomass before 2021 or smaller than 10 MW

Distributed Generation

Geothermal

GHG Neutral Biomass

Hydropower less than 10 MW

Renewable Energy Storage

Solar

Waste Heat

Wind

CES

Technology-Neutral

See [C.R.S. 40-2-124\(1\)\(a\)](#) for definitions of eligible RPS resources, and [C.R.S. 40-2-125.5\(2\)\(b\)](#) for definitions of eligible CES resources. Certain limits may apply.