

## 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 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2030 from the 2005 baseline, goal of 100% non-CO<sub>2</sub> 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.