

RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD AND ZERO EMISSION CREDIT PROGRAM

Illinois



Policy type

Renewable Portfolio Standard

Required Zero-Emission Credits through 2027 + CES goal

Form of the standard

Energy-based

% of renewable energy required

Eligible sources

RPS

Biofuel

Biogas

Biomass

Distributed
Generation

Energy
Efficiency

Existing
Hydropower

Solar

Waste Heat

Wind

See [20 ILCS 3855/1-10](#) for RPS definitions and [20 ILCS 3855/1-75\(d\)](#) for fossil fuel definitions. Certain limits may apply.

Targets

- **RPS:** Interim – 40% by the end of 2030, Final – 50% by the end of 2040
- **CES (aspirational):** 100% clean energy by 2050

Economy-wide goal: Net-zero by 2050

Point of regulation: Retail sales

Regulated entities: Investor-owned utilities, retail suppliers

Percent of retail sales covered by RPS: 93%

Implementing agencies: Illinois Power Agency, Illinois Commerce Commission

Enforcement mechanisms: The renewable resources procurement plans are subject to review and approval by the Commission.

Compliance flexibility and cost containment: Alternative compliance payments for noncompliance with RPS, determined by the Commission, calculated based on average REC price. The amount of renewable energy to be procured must be “reduced for all retail customers based on the amount necessary to limit the annual estimated average net increase due to the costs of these resources included in the amounts paid by eligible retail customers in connection with electric service to no more than 4.25% of the amount paid per kilowatt-hour by those customers during the year ending May 31, 2009.”

Carve-outs and incentives: For the RPS target, 45% carve-out for wind, 55% for solar photovoltaics, with specific carve-outs for community and distributed solar

Compliance tracking: [M-RETS](#), [PJM-GATS](#)

Notable features: In addition to its RPS, Illinois has a Zero-Emission Credit Program which requires utilities to purchase a certain number of ZECs, one ZEC from each megawatt generated, from sources such as nuclear and fossil fuels with CCS through 2027. The state also lifted its moratorium on new nuclear in 2023.

Links to agency website and statutes/rules: [20 ILCS 3855 /1-75 \(RPS\)](#); [20 ILCS 3855/1-5 \(CES Goal\)](#); [Illinois Compiled Statutes](#); [Gov. Pritzker Signs Transformative Legislation Establishing Illinois as a National Leader on Climate Action](#); [Retail Electricity Sales](#); [EPA's REC Tracking Systems](#)