

CLEAN ENERGY STANDARD AND RENEWABLE ENERGY PORTFOLIO STANDARD

Massachusetts

Policy type

Renewable Portfolio Standard

Clean Energy Standard

+ CES-E for existing hydro and nuclear energy

Form of the standard

Energy-based RPS

% of renewable energy required

Energy-based CES & CES-E

% of clean energy required

Eligible sources

RPS

Biofuel

Biogas

Biomass

Clean Hydrogen

Distributed
Generation

Geothermal

Hydropower less
than 30 MW

Solar

Waste-to-Energy

Wave/Tidal less
than 100 MW

Wind

CES

Fossil Fuels with
CCS

Fusion

Hydropower
greater than 30 MW

Nuclear Energy
greater than 30 MW

Targets

- Interim:** RPS – 40% by 2030 and an additional 1% annually; CES – annual requirements, starting at 16% in 2018, and increasing every year to 60% in 2030 (90% including the CES-E (existing hydro and nuclear energy), which is determined by formula)
- Final:** CES – 100% by 2050 and each year after; including the CES-E (existing hydro and nuclear energy), which is determined by formula

Economy-wide goal: Net-zero by 2050; emissions must be 85% below 1990 level, with sector-specific limits

Point of regulation: Retail sales

Regulated entities: Investor-owned utilities, retail suppliers

Percent of retail sales covered by RPS: 89%

Implementing agencies: Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER), and Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)

Enforcement mechanisms: Penalties for noncompliance, enforced as an administrative order or civil administrative penalties

Compliance flexibility and cost containment: CES – Alternative Compliance Payment (ACP) with a rate of \$35 per MWh from 2022-2050; CES-E – ACP rate of \$10 per MWh from 2022-2050

Carve-outs and incentives: CES – Minimum of existing hydropower and nuclear, based on a formula; RPS – mandated target of 1600 MW by 2020 of in-state solar photovoltaics, mandated target of 5.6 GW by 2027 of offshore wind

Compliance tracking: [NEPOOL GIS](#); Required annual compliance filings of progress and emissions

Notable features: Municipal electric departments and municipal light boards are exempt but can opt in

Recent updates: SB 2967 added fusion as an eligible source for CES

Links to agency website and statutes/rules: [Title 225 CMR 14.00](#); [310 CMR § 7.75](#); [Distributed Generation in Massachusetts](#); [Retail Electricity Sales](#); [EPA's REC Tracking Systems](#); [Senate Bill 2967](#)

See [310 CMR 7.75\(7\)](#) and [MGL c. 25A, § 11F\(b\)](#) for definitions of eligible resources. Certain limits may apply.