

*New York State
Renewable Portfolio Standard
Case 03- E- 0188
Frequently Asked Consumer Questions*

Q. What is a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)?

A. A renewable portfolio standard is a requirement that a certain amount of a state's electricity must be derived from renewable sources of generation, which may include such resources as wind, solar, photovoltaics, biomass, tidal, methane waste and others.

Q. What are the expected benefits and costs of creating a renewable portfolio standard for New York State?

A. A renewable portfolio standard for electricity supplied in New York State is expected to reduce air emissions, including greenhouse gases, and other adverse environmental impacts. Also, an RPS has the potential to reduce New York's dependence on imported fuels and help diversify the State's generation fuel mix. In addition, attracting renewable technology generators, manufacturers and installers to New York has economic benefits. The cost to customers to create an RPS for New York has the potential of slightly increasing their electricity bill.

Q. What does the word portfolio mean in this context?

A. Portfolio refers to a list or inventory of the fuel mix or sources used to supply electricity.

Q. What is the statewide mix of the fuels now used to supply electricity in New York?

A. The percentage of each fuel used to supply electricity in New York State based on Department of Public Service Environmental Disclosure data from April 2001-March 2002, is as follows:

<i>SOURCE</i>	<i>PERCENTAGE</i>
Biomass	0.67
Coal	15.48
Fuel Cells	0.025
Hydro	17.58
Natural Gas	26.96
Nuclear	28.79
Oil	9.42
Solar	0.004
Solid Waste	0.98
Tidal	0.00
Wind	0.08
<i>Total</i>	100.00%

Q. Do other states have a renewable portfolio standard?

A. Yes, 13 other states have, or will soon be instituting, a renewable portfolio standard.

Q. How will New York State develop its renewable portfolio standard?

- A. The New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) has directed its Staff to work collaboratively with other organizations and interested parties to advise the Commission on which resources should be considered renewable, the applicability of an RPS, the role of renewable supply imports, and the feasibility of renewable trading systems. The minutes of the meetings for the RPS collaborative working groups are available by visiting the Commission's www.AskPSC.com Web site.

An Administrative Law Judge will take into consideration the results of the collaborative working groups and make recommendations to the Commission for consideration in adopting a Renewable Portfolio Standard. Public comment will be sought on any Commission action related to RPS.

Q. How can I participate in New York State's RPS proceeding?

- A. Anyone can stay informed by using the Commission's www.AskPSC.com Web site. If you have a question or would like to informally express your views on a renewable portfolio standard for New York State, please visit www.AskPSC.com and provide your comments on the PSC Comment Form. You may also leave a comment or request information on the Commission's toll-free Opinion Line at 1-800-335-2120.

If you are interested in participating formally in the RPS proceeding as an active party, you must write to the Secretary of the New York State Public Service Commission, 3 Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York 12223, and request active party status. Active parties attend hearings and negotiations, and file legal briefs and formal comments.