

RPS: Moving MA to Clean Renewable Electricity



What is RPS - the Renewable Portfolio Standard?

The MA Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) is a law.

It requires...

Electricity suppliers must provide 12% of their electricity from "MA Class 1" renewables in 2017

Under current law the percentage required goes up 1% every year

What are "MA Class 1" renewables?



- 1 Solar, wind, small hydro, digester gas, or geothermal
- 2 On the New England power grid
- 3 Built after 1997

By creating annually increasing demand, more and more renewables must come online so suppliers can meet the mandate.



RPS increases are essential so investors know that if they build more clean generation infrastructure the electric companies will buy the generated electricity

Municipal Light Plants (MLs) are currently exempt from the RPS. They should transition into the RPS.
The RPS mandate needs to increase an average of 3% or more every year – not 1% or 2%

... To accelerate compliance with the Global Warming Solutions Act

... To create new jobs in Massachusetts and New England

A 3% MA increase (with 1.5% in Connecticut) creates up to 37,000 net new jobs by 2030¹ (This accounts displaced fossil fuel related jobs)

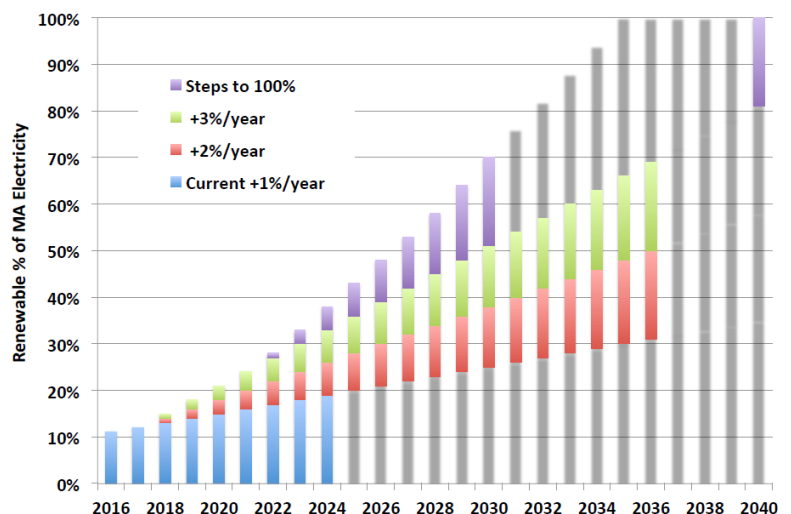
(A 2% increase in MA alone does not create new jobs)

... To reduce the billions of dollars we send out of state every year to buy fossil fuels

... To diversify our energy mix and protect consumers from increases in fossil fuel prices

... To enhance Massachusetts' leadership and innovation in energy of the future
Compel the state's energy economy to look forward, not backward

... To move us toward 100% renewable electricity. There is no time for delay.



With no changes to RPS policy, or just a 2% annual increase in MA, the electric system is unlikely to see substantial additions of renewables before 2030, beyond the already mandated off shore wind procurement

¹ [An Analysis of the Massachusetts Renewable Portfolio Standard](#) by Synapse Energy Economics, Inc. and Sustainable Energy Advantage, LLC