



April 29, 2008

Dear Colleague,

On behalf of the Clean Energy Group (CEG), I am pleased to announce the creation of a new ***State / Federal Renewable Portfolio Standard Collaborative*** – a unique initiative to support the successful design and implementation of renewable portfolio standards (RPS) across the country. The Collaborative is being funded by the Energy Foundation and U.S. Department of Energy through the National Renewable Energy Lab.

As you are aware, RPS programs have emerged as an important driver of renewable energy projects in the U.S. The mission of this RPS Collaborative is to facilitate dialogue among RPS stakeholders, with an emphasis on (1) state-to-state-to-federal information-sharing and (2) pursuing opportunities for cooperation. The Collaborative seeks to advance the effectiveness of state RPS initiatives and to strengthen renewable energy markets in individual states, regionally, and across the country. The attached Collaborative description provides additional details.

**I am writing to invite you to participate in this important initiative. Over the next six months, the initiative will sponsor a webinar series, Working Group meetings, internet resources, a member list serve and other communications that will explore and address priority RPS issues. This activity will lead to a National RPS Summit, tentatively scheduled for early October 2008, where we will convene to try to forge a consensus on RPS design and implementation recommendations for state, regional, and national markets.**

**Please reply to this email to confirm your interest in joining this new State/Federal RPS Collaborative, with a cc to [Maria@cleanegroup.org](mailto:Maria@cleanegroup.org).** We will then enroll you (at no cost) on the members-only list serve for this initiative so that you to receive announcements for upcoming Collaborative events. If other members of your organization also would like to join, they should send their contact information to [Maria@cleanegroup.org](mailto:Maria@cleanegroup.org), with “RPS Collaborative” in the subject line.

Our first webinar will be on Tuesday, May 20, 2008, from 1 – 3 pm EDT. Please hold the date for this kick-off event. In addition to introducing the Collaborative’s goals and activities, it will address and explore “*Principles and Best Practices for RPS Success*”, based on the early experiences and lessons learned by states. We will distribute an agenda and resource materials for the May 20<sup>th</sup> webinar one week prior to the event **via the Collaborative list serve**. Be sure to reply to this email if you are interested.

Subject to participant input, future webinars will focus on: understanding the role of the federal government in supporting RPS policy and programs; using an RPS to foster technology diversity; and exploring benefits of and strategies for increasing harmonization among state RPS programs to create stronger regional and national REC markets.

I look forward to your active participation and encourage you to share this invitation with other colleagues interested in this issue. Please direct any questions you have to Steve Weisman, Collaborative Coordinator, at [sweisman@peregrinegroup.com](mailto:sweisman@peregrinegroup.com), Subject: RPS Collaborative.

Sincerely,

Mark Sinclair  
Vice President

---

Clean Energy Group • 50 State Street • Montpelier, VT 05602  
(802) 223-2554 • fax (802) 223-4967  
Email: [MSinclair@cleanegroup.org](mailto:MSinclair@cleanegroup.org)  
[www.cleanegroup.org](http://www.cleanegroup.org)  
[www.cleanenergystates.org](http://www.cleanenergystates.org)

# **STATE / FEDERAL RPS COLLABORATIVE**

## **BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

Renewable portfolio standards (RPS), established by 25 states and Washington, D.C., have created significant opportunities to advance renewable energy projects. As the number of state RPS laws have increased, so too have variations in RPS design and practices. The variety of state approaches has created a working laboratory for investigating what design and implementation strategies are most effective and what is and is not succeeding.

One major challenge is the patchwork of different state approaches to RPS program design. State-by-state RPS variability has resulted in a number of market barriers, with the definitions of eligible renewable energy generation and the value of renewable energy certificates varying significantly across state lines.

While many RPS programs are in the early stages of implementation, states are rapidly gaining experience and insights on how to ensure effective program design and implementation success. Despite the obvious benefits of information sharing and collaboration between RPS stakeholders, there has been limited discussion to date among states regarding how best to capture collective opportunities.

Another emerging issue is the future role of the federal government in supporting state RPS programs, as well as the merits of establishing a national RPS.

## **RPS COLLABORATIVE'S FOUNDERS AND MISSION**

It is in this context that Clean Energy Group (CEG), a national non-profit organization working on innovative technology, finance, and policy issues in the clean energy area, has organized a State / Federal RPS Collaborative. This initiative is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy through NREL and by the Energy Foundation.

The mission of the Collaborative is to:

- Provide a forum for open dialogue and information exchange among states and stakeholders on RPS design and implementation issues
- Identify effective RPS design and implementation practices emerging from experience with current RPS programs
- Foster harmonization between state RPS programs, where appropriate and useful
- Provide input on how the federal government can support state RPS efforts

CEG is inviting RPS stakeholders from across the country to actively participate in this Collaborative, contributing their ideas and insights to enhance the effectiveness of RPS policies in fostering renewable energy development.

## **GOALS OF THE RPS COLLABORATIVE**

This national-in-scope RPS Collaborative seeks to facilitate dialogue and learning among RPS stakeholders, with a particular emphasis on state-to-state and state-to-federal information-sharing and cooperation. Specifically, the initiative will

- Educate participants regarding the status of state RPS implementation efforts across the United States, with a focus on challenges faced and lessons learned

- Identify a set of best practices/principles for designing or revising state RPS initiatives by examining state experiences to date
- Develop a set of principles and recommendations to guide consideration and design of a national RPS, if one is advanced, in a way that complements current state RPS efforts
- Explore the value of and approaches to increasing harmonization and cooperation among RPS programs and to development of more effective regional or national renewable energy certificate (REC) markets
- Assist states, upon request, to design and improve RPS programs

## **COLLABORATIVE STEERING COMMITTEE**

CEG and the Collaborative’s funders have established a Collaborative Steering Committee composed of state policy makers and managers, federal government representatives, non-government organizations, and experts on RPS issues. The purpose of the Steering Committee is to help guide the activities of the Collaborative. The intention is that the Steering Committee membership will reflect the breadth of interest and experience in RPS programs from across the country and include a diverse group of RPS stakeholders.

Steering Committee members represent:

- The Energy Foundation
- Department of Energy
- Environmental Protection Agency
- National Conference of State Legislatures
- National Association of State Energy Officials
- National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissions
- California Energy Commission
- California Public Utility Commission
- Colorado Public Utility Commission
- Minnesota Public Utility Commission;
- New York State Public Service Commission
- New Jersey Public Utility Commission
- North Carolina Utilities Commission
- Texas Public Utilities Commission
- Public Utility Commission of Wisconsin
- American Wind Energy Association
- Center for Resource Solutions
- Solar Energy Industries Association
- Union of Concerned Scientists
- Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

## **PROPOSED WORK PLAN ACTIVITIES**

Establishment of Steering Committee	<b>APRIL 2008</b>
National Announcement of RPS Collaborative	<b>APRIL 2008</b>
Outreach to Create RPS Stakeholders Network	<b>ONGOING</b>

Establishment of Collaborative listserv

**MAY 2008**

Launch RPS Collaborative website

**MAY 2008**

### Monthly Webinars

**MAY - AUGUST 2008**

Webinars, running approx. 2 hours, will be organized around specific issues. Advanced registration will be required. Each webinar will begin with an overview of issues to be considered and feature speaker presentations to stimulate facilitated discussion on the issues. After each webinar, CEG will document all discussion and prepare summaries of recommendations, observations and outputs for distribution and consideration at the National Summit. CEG will also identify specific topics or questions that warrant additional review, including need for supporting analysis. Where there are open issues and interest in continuing the discussion after a webinar, a Working Group meeting(s) (via conference call) can be scheduled and convened, as necessary or appropriate, to address these issues, supplementing or further refining the webinar discussions.

Anticipated Webinar Topics:

- ***“Principles and Best Practices for RPS Success”***: Based on early state learning, identify design principles and implementation practices to advance state RPS effectiveness, inter-state markets, and resource and technology diversity
- ***“Role of the Federal Government in Supporting RPS”***: Consider appropriate roles for the federal government to support state RPS success and advance national REC markets, with and without national RPS legislation. Also, consider recommendations for a design of a federal RPS or legislation that would be complementary to state RPS programs
- ***“Harmonizing RPS Programs to Strengthen Regional and National REC Markets”***: Identify approaches to increase RPS market integration between states and address issues that impede the growth and operation of regional and national REC markets
- ***“Fostering Technology Diversity with RPS Programs”***: Explore state experiences with incorporating technology or fuel-specific set asides in RPS designs to address specific policy goals

### National Summit

**OCTOBER 2008**

The purpose of the National Summit will be to

- Discuss and advance preliminary findings, observations, and recommendations emerging from the Webinars and any Working Group discussions,
- Develop and advance a set of national recommendations, and
- Assist with creating regional RPS working groups, based on interest.

At the National Summit, preliminary observations and recommendations will be presented and discussed to advance the work of the State / Federal RPS Collaborative, as appropriate, and to identify future steps and activities. A final report will be developed to detail the outcomes of the Summit and to present any recommendations.