

## Renewable Portfolio Standards

Georgia is one of 13 states with no Renewable Portfolio Standard or voluntary renewable energy target.<sup>1</sup> Twenty-nine states and Washington, D.C. have adopted an RPS, while eight states and one territory have set renewable energy goals. Roughly half of the growth in U.S. renewable energy generation since 2000 can be attributed to state renewable energy requirements.<sup>2</sup>

- North Carolina established their Renewable Portfolio Standard in 2007 of 10% by 2018 for municipalities and coops and 12.5% by 2021 for investor-owned utilities.
- South Carolina established their voluntary Renewable Portfolio Standard in 2014 of 2% by 2021 for investor-owned utilities.
- Virginia established their voluntary Renewable Portfolio Standard in 2007 of 15% by 2025 for investor owned utilities.
- Texas established their Renewable Generation Requirement of 5,880 MW by 2015 and 10,000 MW by 2025 in 1999 for investor owned utilities and retail suppliers. They also had a specific goal of 500MW of non-wind renewable generation.
- Oklahoma established their Renewable Energy Goal of 15% by 2015 in 2010 for investor-owned utilities, municipal utilities, and cooperative utilities.

In recent years, the role of RPS policies has diminished, accounting for only 34 percent of renewable energy capacity additions in 2017. Other factors such as declining renewable energy costs and state energy policies such as net metering are driving growth as well. As renewable energy becomes increasingly competitive, some states are considering whether RPS policies are still needed to drive growth.<sup>3</sup> In 2017, at least three states—Maryland, Montana and New Hampshire—enacted legislation to study the costs and benefits of their RPS policies.

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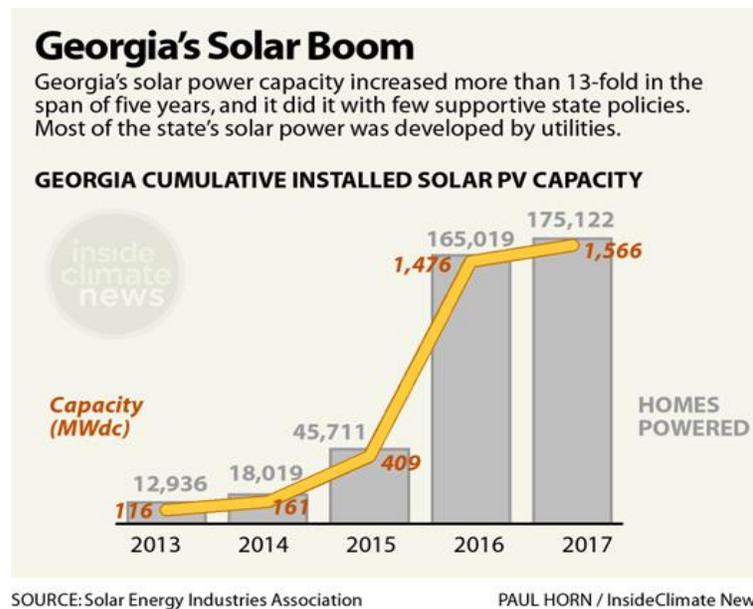
<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ncsl.org/research/energy/renewable-portfolio-standards.aspx#ok>

<sup>2</sup> <https://emp.lbl.gov/publications/us-renewables-portfolio-standards-1>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.lazard.com/media/450773/lazards-levelized-cost-of-energy-version-120-vfinal.pdf>

Data from the 2014 Cooperative Congressional Election Study, which surveyed 56,000 people across the country, shows that roughly 51% of Georgians support Renewable Portfolio Standards.<sup>4</sup> Georgia currently has no binding targets for renewable production or consumption. One viable option to promote renewable energy in the state could be a bill outlining non-binding or voluntary targets to start the conversation around sustainable energy independence in Georgia.

Strict guidelines for the energy market are not a viable option for Georgia, since Georgia Power is regulated by the Professional Standards Commission and has been actively increasing the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources like solar farms since 2013. Growth in solar has stagnated recently, but it is important to recognize that Georgia is the 8<sup>th</sup> largest consumer of solar in the US. The figure below from Solar Energy Industries Association shows the number of homes powered by solar energy in Georgia in 2017 as 175,122.



Read the U.S. Department of Energy's annual RPS summary report for more information on Renewable Portfolio Standards:

[http://eta-publications.lbl.gov/sites/default/files/2018\\_annual\\_rps\\_summary\\_report.pdf](http://eta-publications.lbl.gov/sites/default/files/2018_annual_rps_summary_report.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <https://cloudfront.escholarship.org/dist/prd/content/qt6n95x618/qt6n95x618.pdf>