



# Updating Utah's Renewable energy target.

Rep. Ward for  
Public Utilities  
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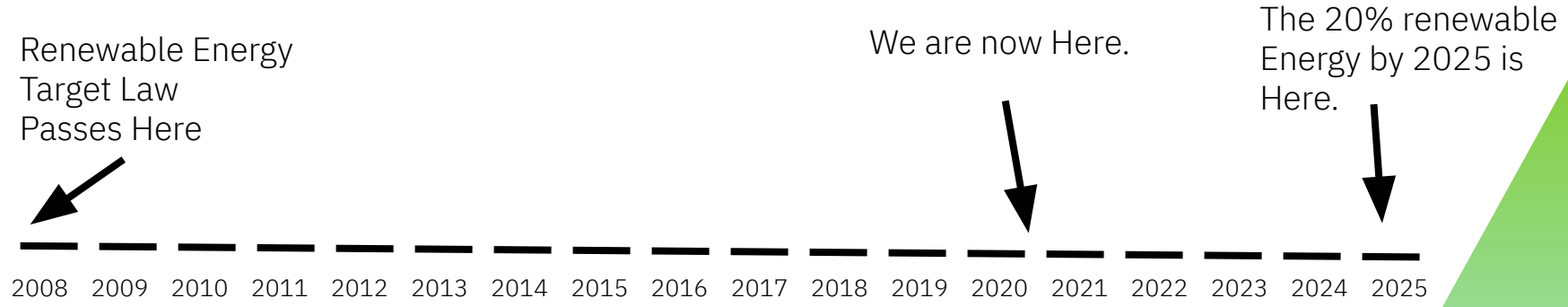
**In 2008 - The Utah Legislature passed a state renewable energy target (not mandate). They set the target for Utilities operating within the state to be at:**

- 20% renewable energy by 2025.**
- Directed the Utilities to work towards this goal, only insofar as it was “Cost Effective”**

**We are now 12 years along that 17 year timeline.**

**Now is a good time to take stock of where we are - and where it makes sense to aim for from here.**

- Where are we now?
- How far have we come?
- Where should be be going?





What has worked well about the law?

What should be updated about the law?





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## What has worked well about the law?

- The law served as a reference point about where the state was hoping to get with renewable energy while not increasing costs - and whether we were moving in that direction.

## What should be updated about the law?

- The law doesn't consider most hydropower as renewable.
- The law doesn't consider nuclear power as renewable
- According to Pacificorps' report from 2019 - They are on current track to far exceed the statutory requirement by 2025.

## What has changed around us since 2008?

**Some ways of producing renewable energy have gotten cheaper.**

**We have made some additional commitments.**

**Many different constituencies have made it clear they want renewable energy.**

## What has changed around us since 2008?

# Some ways of producing renewable energy have gotten cheaper.

- Wind and Solar (although still intermittent forms of energy) are now the cheapest to produce.
- The increase in ability to product Natural Gas from fracking makes the possibility of adding carbon capture more viable.
- We have increased our supply of renewable Natural Gas
- Because of our pre-existing infrastructure and geology - Utah has secured substantial funding to explore ways to increase production of Geothermal energy
- Our salt domes in Central Utah also offer the chance to store energy from a renewable source on a large scale.



## What has changed around us since 2008?

The inland port has a goal that all energy for the port will be from renewable sources.

**We have made some additional commitments.**

Our bid for the chance to hold the Olympics again in Utah includes a commitment that all the energy for the event will be net zero carbon.

The Kem C. Gardner institute completed their roadmap on Air Quality and Climate with several well thought out policy recommendations.

## A Couple of the “Milepost” recommendations from the Kem C. Gardner Clean Air and Climate Roadmap

MILEPOST

1

**Adopt emissions-reduction goals and measure results** – We recommend the following emissions-reduction goals be adopted by resolution, or statute in 2020.

*Reduce criteria pollutant air emissions below 2017 levels by 50% by 2050.*

*Reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions statewide 25% below 2005 levels by 2025, 50% by 2030, and 80% by 2050.*

MILEPOST

6

**Provide economic transition assistance to rural communities** – We recommend the state prioritize economic development investment and partnerships in energy-transition areas such as Carbon, Emery, Millard, Uintah, Duchesne, Sevier, and San Juan counties.

MILEPOST

7

**Participate in national dialogue about market-based approaches to reduce carbon emissions** – We recommend the state become a leader in national discussions about how to harness the power of market forces and new technologies to reduce carbon emissions in a way that protects health, sustains economic development, and offers other benefits to Utahns. Energy storage, research and development for energy technologies, revenue neutral/border adjusted carbon pricing, cap and trade, and other approaches may offer promising options for reducing emissions.

## What has changed around us since 2008?

- Three counties and 20 municipalities have taken the state up on the chance to switch to 100% net renewable energy for their constituents by 2030.
- Some large companies wishing to open offices here, have made the provision of net zero carbon energy a part of their conditions for coming.
- Many individual consumers have sought ways to change their own energy consumption to renewable energy with hybrid vehicles, fully electric vehicles, and the installation of Solar Panels on their home.

**Many different constituencies  
have made it clear they want  
renewable energy.**

## What is in the bill?

- Updates our target to 50% Clean energy by the Year 2030.
- Retains the guardrail of requiring cost effectiveness.
- Adds all Hydropower and Nuclear energy as sources that count as clean energy.
- Changes Renewable energy certificates so they need to be used within 3 years.

## Why 50% by 2030?

- This appears to be in the neighborhood of what is anticipated in the Rocky Mountain Power IRP plan.
- Multiple other Western Power Companies already have adopted this same target of 50% by 2030 including Arizona Public Service, Idaho Power, and Xcel Energy.

- **I have been in communication with Pacificorps and the Utah Office of Consumer Services in the drafting of this bill - and am still happy to continue to work with them if there are other modifications that they feel would improve the bill.**
- **I am not seeking for a committee vote on the bill today - as I think it should have the public input and review that a bill receives during the regular session.**
- **I would like to turn the time over to Wayne Niederhauser to give the committee an update on our state's bid for the Olympics. (which contains a commitment to net-zero carbon energy)**

**Thank You!**

**I would be happy  
to answer any  
questions.**

