

# States must carry forward the promise of clean energy

Today, state-level clean energy leadership is needed more than ever.

There are many ways states can lead on clean energy, including:

## SET GOALS.

- **Set 100% renewable energy goals**

Legislatively codifying a 100% goal signals a state's intention and brings all parties together toward a common objective.

- **Set clear interim goals on the road to 100%.**

State 100% renewable energy goals most effectively drive progress when they include clear interim benchmarks. Interim goals act as the guide star for state agencies that oversee energy in the state and help ensure the state hits its 100% goal in a timely and organized manner.

- **Set goals for key clean energy technologies.**

Specific targets for key technologies such as solar power, offshore wind energy, and energy storage spur growth and innovation of those technologies.

- **Regularly revisit goals and consider accelerating timelines.** Renewable energy is growing by leaps and bounds. To make sure goals keep driving progress, states with existing clean or renewable commitments should regularly revisit and consider accelerating their timelines.

- **Lead by example.** State leaders can require state agencies to reach 100% clean or renewable energy on an earlier timetable than the rest of their state. These "walk the talk" provisions can help put states in position to capitalize on clean energy resources such as geothermal.

## SAVE SOLAR AND DON'T IMPOSE UNFAIR FEES ON SOLAR OWNERS.

Ensure that utility regulations support the growth of renewable energy, including through policies such as "net metering". Net metering policies compensate owners of renewable energy systems fairly for the energy they supply to the grid. Regulators must not impose unreasonable fees on solar owners.

## CUT RED TAPE.

States should encourage or require the adoption of Solar Automated Permit Processing (SolarAPP+), a fast, automated online permitting system developed by the U.S. Department of Energy and available free of charge for local governments.

## BRING CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY-WIDE.

States should encourage or require the transition to electric vehicles and buildings through strong "clean car" standards and improved building codes.

## INVEST IN THE CLEANEST ENERGY.

States should invest in energy efficiency and conservation programs, and set strong building energy codes and efficiency standards for lighting and appliances.

# Leading the way toward a future powered by 100% clean, renewable energy



**100% clean energy commitments are growing clean energy and reducing pollution. It's time to lean in.**

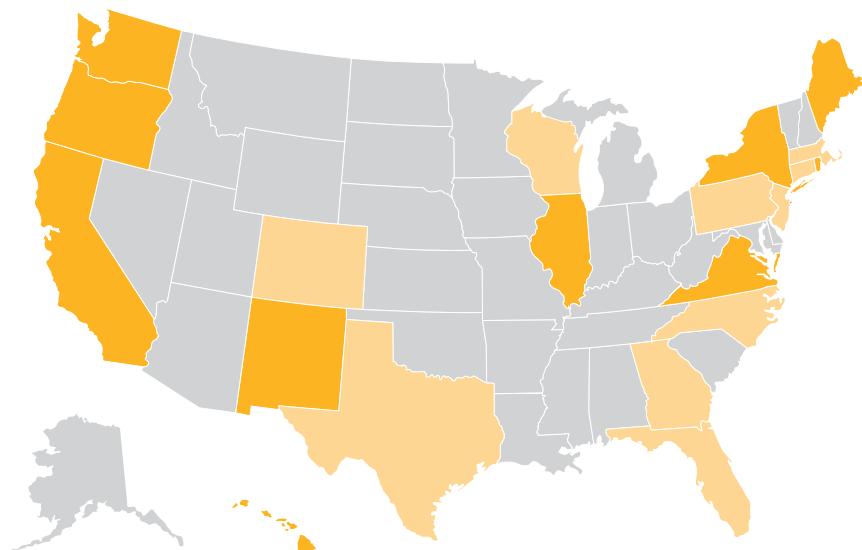


## States are leading the way on clean energy

When California passed Senate Bill (SB) 100 in 2018, it propelled a nationwide movement for 100% clean and renewable energy. SB 100 set a statewide goal to power all of California's electricity needs with 100% clean energy by 2045. By codifying a 100% clean energy goal into law, California signaled its intention to transition to clean energy. The legislative commitment guaranteed a market for clean energy to grow.

## A wave of states set clean energy goals

Following in California's wake, ten states now have 100% clean or renewable commitments that include short-term plans to kick-start renewables.



■ Committed to 100% ■ Working on a statewide commitment



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## Setting goals ignites a virtuous cycle

State-level clean energy goals ignite a virtuous cycle where goals create demand, and supply and project completion drives confidence and ambition to set larger goals.

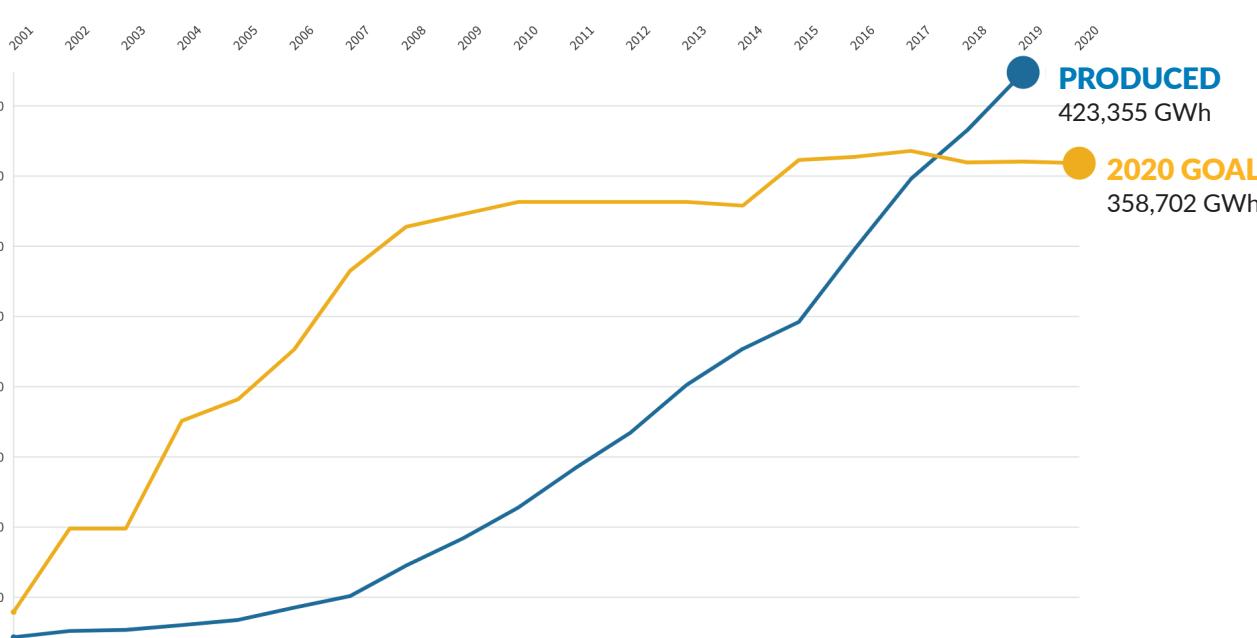
The cycle is working. Clean energy innovation has accelerated. Costs have plummeted.

## Aiming high drives clean energy growth

Today, clean energy's growth has surpassed even the goals we have set for ourselves. America today generates 20 times more clean, renewable electricity than it did in 2001. And on May 8, 2022, California generated 103.5% of its energy from renewable energy sources.

### CLEAN ENERGY GOALS DRIVE GROWTH

As states set more ambitious goals for renewable energy by 2020, production\* rose and ultimately outpaced their goals.



\* Production of wind, solar and geothermal power in gigawatt-hours. Goals represent the cumulative renewable goals for 2020 of all states by year. Source: Renewables on the Rise, Environment America Research & Policy Center.

The below table compiles state-by-state legislative commitments to 100% clean or renewable energy along with relevant benchmarks codified into law in that state.<sup>1</sup>

State	What is the 100% commitment to?	By when?	Key benchmarks
California	Clean energy	2045	100% clean by 2045, 90% clean by 2035, 95% clean by 2040, 44% renewable by 2024, 50% renewable by 2026, 52% renewable by 2027, 60% renewable by 2030
Connecticut <sup>2</sup>	Clean energy	2040	100% clean by 2040, 40% renewable by 2030
Hawaii	Renewable energy	2045	100% renewable by 2045, 40% renewable by 2030, 70% renewable by 2040
Illinois	Clean energy	2050	100% clean by 2050, 40% clean by 2030, 50% clean by 2040
Maine	Clean energy	2050	100% clean by 2050, 80% clean by 2030
Nevada <sup>3</sup>	Clean energy	2050	100% clean by 2050, 50% clean by 2030
New Mexico	Clean energy	2045	100% clean by 2045, 40% renewable by 2025, 50% renewable by 2030, at least 80% renewable by 2045
New York	Clean energy	2040	100% clean by 2040, 70% renewable by 2030
Oregon	Clean energy	2040	80% emissions reductions for power sold in-state by 2030 compared to 2010 baseline, 90% by 2035, 100% by 2040, 50% renewable by 2040
Rhode Island	Renewable energy	2033	100% renewable by 2033, annual increases in renewables through 2033
Virginia	Clean energy	2050	100% clean by 2050. Some utilities are required to achieve a renewables target of 14% by 2025, 30% by 2030, 65% by 2040, and 100% by 2050. Other utilities have a renewables requirement of 26% by 2025, 41% by 2030, and 100% by 2045.
Washington	Clean energy	2045	100% renewable or zero-emitting by 2045

1. <https://www.cesa.org/projects/100-clean-energy-collaborative/guide/table-of-100-clean-energy-states/>

2. Environment America does not include Connecticut in its list of states committed to 100% clean or renewable energy because the benchmarks do not clearly enough grow renewable energy in the short-term.

3. Environment America does not include Nevada in its list of states committed to 100% renewable energy because the benchmarks do not clearly enough grow renewable energy in the short-term.