

**Report on the  
2015 State Goal of the  
Renewable Portfolio Standard**

**5-GF-261**

**Public Service Commission of Wisconsin**

**May 17, 2016**

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Wisconsin Stat. § 196.378 establishes the Wisconsin Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) and applies to all 118 electric providers that serve retail customers in Wisconsin. These electric providers are local electric distribution companies, and include all investor-owned utilities, municipal utilities, and electric cooperatives that serve residential and business customers in the state.

The RPS has two components: (1) a statewide goal of 10 percent of total retail electric sales from renewable resources by 2015; and (2) individual electric provider requirements. The 10 percent statewide goal is not, in itself, a mandate. However, individual electric provider requirements drive the procurement of renewable resources to serve Wisconsin customers, either in the form of electric provider-owned generation, or purchase power agreements. This leads to renewable resource generation, the quantity of which can be measured and used to establish an annual statewide renewable energy percentage.

In 2013, the 10 percent goal was achieved for the first time; two years ahead of schedule. Documentation of achieving the goal in 2013 can be found in Commission docket 5-GF-243, in which the Commission Agenda Memorandum (PSC REF#: 206461) details electric provider efforts and estimates that 10.17 percent of all 2013 retail sales of electricity to Wisconsin customers came from renewable resources due to the RPS. The goal was also met in 2014. Commission docket 5-GF-258 contains electric provider filings for 2014, and the Commission Agenda Memorandum (PSC REF#: 271802) estimates that 10.94 percent of statewide retail sales of electricity came from renewable resources as a result of the RPS.

Docket 5-GF-261

Recent 2015 RPS compliance filings by electric providers in 5-GF-260, and the Commission Agenda Memorandum (PSC REF#: 285744) confirms that the 10 percent goal was exceeded for the third year in a row. Since 2015 is the deadline for the target goal, electric providers filed additional information in docket 5-GF-260 on renewable generator data, and Commission staff performed additional verification of electric provider claims to 2015 generation in the the Midwest Renewable Energy Tracking System. Based on this verification process, Commission staff estimates that 10.38 percent of Wisconsin retail sales of electricity in 2015 came from renewable resources due to the RPS. Many electric providers also have optional “Green Pricing Programs,” that allow their retail customers to voluntarily pay a premium for renewable energy above and beyond electric provider requirements. If generation from these Green Pricing Programs is also counted, 10.90 percent of Wisconsin retail sales of electricity came from renewable resources in 2015.

Individual electric provider RPS requirements will continue indefinitely and, based on electric provider forecast information in docket 5-GF-260, it is likely that the 10 percent state goal will be met each year through at least 2020.

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Key Background Documents

6-12-14 Commission Agenda Memo - PSC REF#: 206461

Commission Agenda Memo - PSC REF#: 271802

Commission Agenda Memo - PSC REF#: 285744