

## RENEWABLES WORK FOR PA

A measured increase of the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards (AEPS) Tier 1 goals **to at least 18 percent by 2026 with 5.5 percent from in-state solar** would provide a much-needed economic boost to Pennsylvania during the pandemic crisis and create lasting benefits for the Commonwealth.

**Doing so would save family farms, create tens of thousands of jobs, attract billions of dollars in private investment, save ratepayers millions, and increase local and state revenues.**

**All without costing the Commonwealth one cent.**

**SAVE FARMS.** Pennsylvania farmers need relief and losses are mounting due to COVID19. The Commonwealth lost roughly 6,000 farms between 2012 and 2017 (National Agriculture Census) and has experienced a rise in farm bankruptcies since 2018 (American Farm Bureau). Increasing the AEPS goals, specifically the portion from in-state solar, can grow farm income through land leases. **Solar project land-lease payments to farmers average \$800-\$1,200 an acre each year** (three to five times the annual farm income) **and are guaranteed for twenty-five years.** Farmers can continue farming their non-solar land. Solar fields can be planted with cover crops -including pollinator-friendly plantings among the solar- that will improve soil health, and incorporate beehives and sheep grazing. A decommissioning bond will ensure that the technology will be removed at the end of service and revert to usable farmland.

**CREATE JOBS.** Renewable energy equals opportunity and job creation. Moving to 10 percent solar by 2030 **would create upwards of 100,000 jobs** throughout the supply chain in Pennsylvania and result in a net **economic benefit of \$1.6 billion annually**, according to the Finding Pennsylvania's Solar Future project.

**ATTRACT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.** Large private investments into Pennsylvania renewable projects are waiting for changes to state policy before investors will move forward. **The regional PJM electric grid reports nearly 350 grid-scale solar project applications (more than 13 gigawatts of capacity) are registered in the planning stage. An increase in AEPS goals, signaling a predictable market, would prompt major new investments** in both grid-scale renewables as well as rooftop solar on businesses, municipalities, schools, nonprofits and homes.

Recent analysis using modeling developed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) found that moving to a goal of 10 percent in-state solar by 2030 would result in:

- \$2.3 billion in farmer lease payments;
- 66,507 jobs and \$4.1 billion in family-sustaining wages;
- \$9.2 billion in private capital investment;
- \$5.3 billion in local economic benefit;
- \$228 million in local tax revenue from grid scale solar projects.

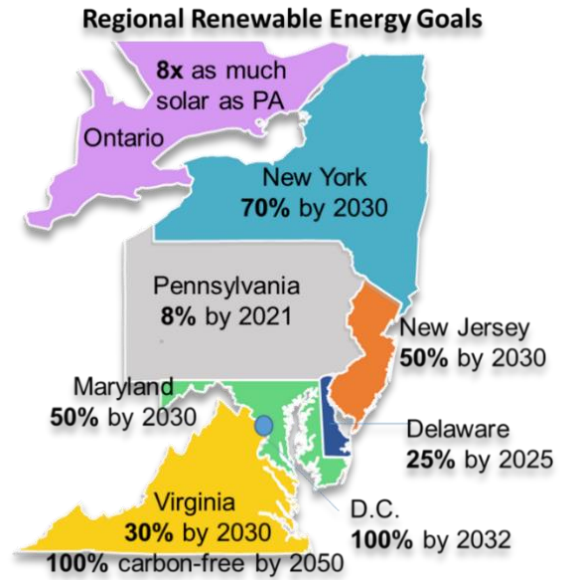
**SAVE CONSUMERS MONEY.** Replacing 10 percent of Pennsylvania's electric generation with solar would result in more than \$300 million in net savings annually for Pennsylvania electric customers (report produced by Power Grid Engineering & Markets/PowerGEM consultants).

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**To maximize economic benefit, the Renewables Work for PA coalition requests an increase in the AEPS goals to 18 percent by 2026 with 5.5 percent from in-state solar.**

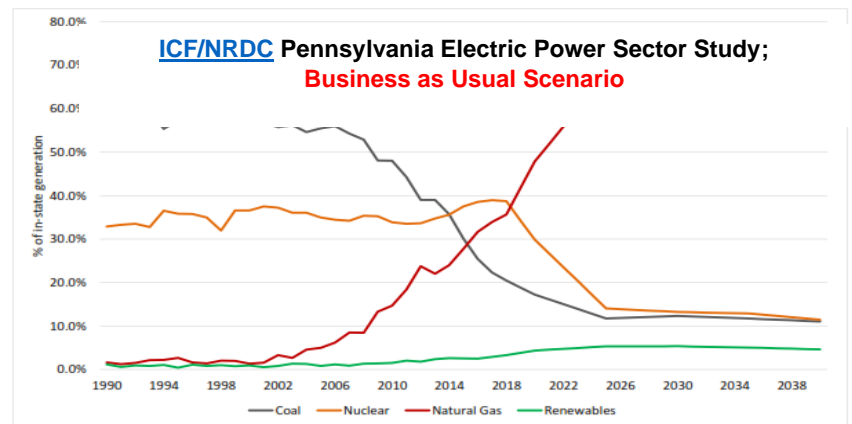
**RENEWABLES WORK FOR PA (RW4PA)** is a coalition of 100+ renewable businesses advocating for Pennsylvania to modernize its Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards. These companies are currently investing in and poised to do more business in Pennsylvania. [www.renewablesworkforpa.com](http://www.renewablesworkforpa.com)

Solar, wind, and natural gas are the most cost-effective U.S. energy sources and **Pennsylvania is losing its competitive edge** in moving to the new clean energy economy. The Tier 1 AEPS goals, passed in 2004 with an 8 percent goal with 0.5 percent solar have fallen far behind most other neighboring states that have goals of 50 percent or higher. Private investment and jobs flow to states with the most ambitious policies.



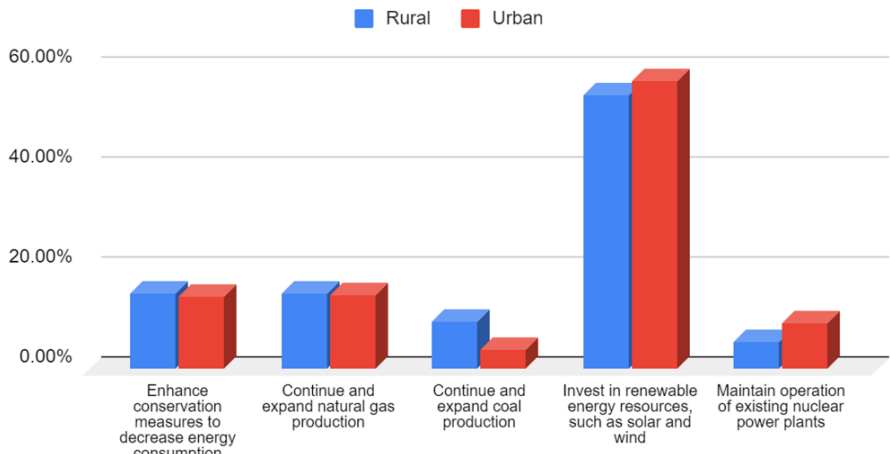
**Renewables diversify our electric grid** which will protect consumers from volatile fuel price fluctuations while keeping the lights on. Solar and wind energy production and prices are highly predictable. If we maintain businesses as usual (and do not balance other resources with renewables), our electricity mix will be dominated by 70 percent natural gas by 2030.

**Putting forecasted generation into perspective**



**Rural and urban voters are supportive of moving to renewable energy development.** A *Center for Rural Pennsylvania* study found that the majority of respondents supported increasing renewable energy generation far above any other energy priority.

Which of the following options holds the greatest promise for addressing Pennsylvania's energy demands in the next 5 years?



Center for Rural Pennsylvania Attitudinal Survey, 2019  
<https://www.rural.palegislature.us/documents/reports/Attitudinal-Survey-2019.pdf>