

Fuel Cells and RPSs: An Introduction

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This Webinar

- ▶ Part of a series sponsored and organized by:
 - US Department of Energy Fuel Cell Technologies Program
 - Clean Energy States Alliance
 - Technology Transition Corporation
- ▶ Also briefing papers and materials for state policymakers and others on the Hydrogen and Fuel Cells Project page at www.cleanenergystates.org
- ▶ To get on the Hydrogen listserv, send an email with your contact info to Maria@cleanegroup.org with “Hydrogen Listserv” in the subject.



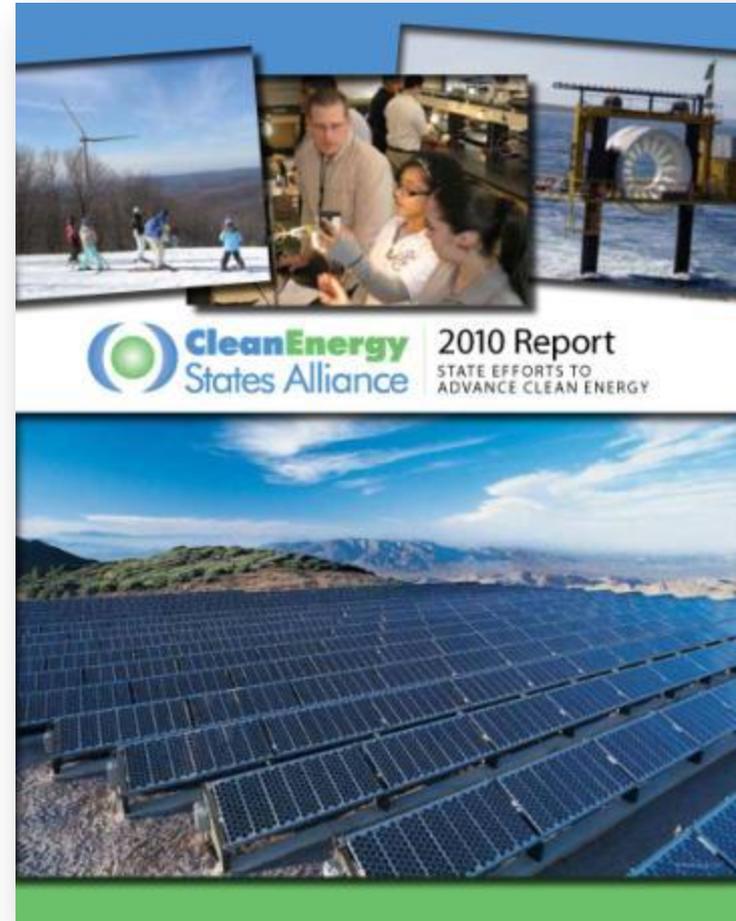
- ▶ The State-Federal RPS Collaborative
 - Webinars, monthly newsletter, annual RPS Summit
 - For state policymakers and others
 - Funded by US DOE and the Energy Foundation
- ▶ See more information on the State-Federal RPS Collaborative Project page on the CESA website (www.cleanenergystates.org).
- ▶ To get on the RPS Collaborative listserv, send an email with your contact info to Maria@cleanegroup.org with “RPS Listserv” in the subject.



What is CESA?

- ▶ A nonprofit coalition of state and sub-national clean energy funds and programs working together to develop and promote clean energy technologies and markets.

www.cleanenergystates.org



Renewable Portfolio Standards

- ▶ Require that a certain share of electricity come from specified clean energy sources
- ▶ Sometimes called Renewable Electricity Standards
- ▶ In 29 states, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico
- ▶ Currently, the most important state-based policy mechanism for promoting clean energy generation

RPSs and Fuel Cells

- ▶ Many states allow fuel cells to qualify when they use renewable fuels
- ▶ Only six states (CT, ME, MN, NY, OH, PA) allow fuel cells that use natural gas as the fuel
- ▶ The timing may be right for more states to consider including natural gas-powered fuel cells



The Argument against Including Natural Gas Fuel Cells in an RPS

- ▶ Natural gas is a fossil fuel

The Argument for Including Natural Gas Fuel Cells in an RPS

- ▶ Can be cleaner, more climate friendly than other fossil fuel generation
- ▶ States highly interested in economic development and local jobs from clean energy
- ▶ The Commerce Clause of the Constitution can make it difficult to focus an RPS on in-state projects (see recent CESA report)
- ▶ An emphasis on distributed generation (DG) can be a way to focus on in-state projects
- ▶ Natural gas fuel cells can be a way to expand the range of eligible DG technologies
 - **Few constraints on location**
 - **A way for businesses and institutions to benefit from the RPS**
 - **Base-load power**

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