



"It is time to focus on the Renewable Fuels Standard and to move forward on this initiative."

Dave Frederickson
NATIONAL FARMERS UNION PRESIDENT

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Across the nation, regional and state farm organizations are actively engaged in the push for state renewable energy and fuel standards. Already, sixteen states have enacted standards to grow markets for renewable electricity.

Farm organizations, by representing the common voice of agriculture, have tremendous influence that can make all the difference in growing the renewable energy economy. If you belong to a farm organization, find out what renewable energy policy positions it has taken. If your organization has not taken a strong stand in favor of renewable energy, consider introducing a resolution at the next meeting or convention.

For more information and a copy of the complete Harvesting Clean Energy Brief, please visit: www.harvestcleanenergy.org



610 4th Avenue East • Olympia, WA 98501
360-352-1763 • fax 360-943-4977
info@climatesolutions.org

Farm Groups Pushing for Renewable Energy Standards



FARMERS SUPPORT RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARDS

Renewable fuel standards (RFS) and renewable electricity standards (RES) ensure that a minimum percentage of electricity and vehicle fuels are produced from renewable sources.

"We support the use of renewable electric standards to stimulate development of renewable energy sources available from agriculture such as timber, wind, biomass and biogas. We support a goal of at least 10% of energy coming from renewable sources."

Bob Stallman
AMERICAN FARM BUREAU
FEDERATION PRESIDENT

"Renewable energy is among the Farm Bureau's top legislative priorities at both the state and national level."

Tracee Bentley
COLORADO FARM BUREAU

"Renewable energy is an opportunity for farmers and ranchers to make a little money for a change. Wind farms also help schools and communities through an expanded tax base."

John Mittleider
NORTH DAKOTA FARM BUREAU

RENEWABLES MEAN ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Renewable fuels and electricity represent significant economic opportunities for rural America. "Renewable energy means new commodities, whether it's ethanol, biodiesel, wind or methane," says Iowa Farm Bureau Commodity Services Coordinator Denny Harding. "We look on energy as a growth sector for agriculture. The economics are looking better all the time."

- An average ethanol plant adds \$110 million to the local economic base, up to 694 permanent jobs at the plant and in the local economy, and at least \$1.2 million to local and state tax revenues.
- Landowners who lease to wind farms receive \$2,500-\$4,000 per turbine.
- Each 100 megawatts of wind capacity produces up to 200 construction jobs, 2-5 permanent jobs and up to \$1 million in local property tax revenue.
- A renewable fuel standard will create an estimated \$5.3 billion in rural capital investments and 214,000 new jobs, according to the American Farm Bureau.

NATIONAL & REGIONAL FARM GROUPS SUPPORT RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARDS

AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION
 AMERICAN CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION
 AMERICAN SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION
 COLORADO DAIRY FARMERS
 COLORADO FARM BUREAU
 COLORADO LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION
 COLORADO WHEAT GROWERS
 IDAHO FARM BUREAU FEDERATION
 ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU
 IOWA FARM BUREAU
 IOWA FARMERS UNION
 MINNESOTA FARMERS UNION
 NATIONAL CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION
 NATIONAL FARMERS UNION
 NATIONAL GRAIN SORGHUM PRODUCERS
 NATIONAL SUNFLOWER ASSOCIATION
 NEBRASKA FARMERS UNION
 NEW HAMPSHIRE FARM BUREAU
 NORTH DAKOTA FARM BUREAU
 OHIO FAMILY FARM COALITION
 ROCKY MOUNTAIN FARMERS UNION
 SOUTH DAKOTA FARM BUREAU
 SOUTH DAKOTA FARMERS UNION
 U.S. CANOLA ASSOCIATION
 WOMEN INVOLVED IN FARM ECONOMICS

“Idaho would see a tremendous benefit from generating our own electricity with the abundant wind, geothermal and biomass resources we have right here.”

Frank Priestley
 IDAHO FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

STANDARDS BOOST DEMAND, BENEFIT FARMERS

Farm organizations are increasingly moving to support renewable energy standards as one of the most powerful tools to build markets for biofuels, windpower and other agriculturally produced clean energy sources.

Over two-thirds of total U.S. wind development between 1998 and 2003 has taken place in states with renewable electricity standards, says the Union of Concerned Scientists. “A national RFS would encourage

investment in new farmer-owned and investor-owned ethanol and biodiesel plants, thereby boosting production and stimulating rural economic activity,” Dave Frederickson, National Farmers Union President.

Renewable energy standards “are the most powerful tool a state can use to promote wind energy,” the National Renewable Energy Laboratory concludes.

“Our industry is heavily dependent on natural gas. The price spikes of recent years have affected virtually everything we do. Before those spikes, farmers didn’t feel energy was their issue to fight. Now we realize we should seek our energy here rather than going elsewhere. We have basically free energy flowing across our state. We should harness it.”

Tracee Bentley
 COLORADO FARM BUREAU

STANDARDS REDUCE ENERGY COSTS

For farmers an additional economic benefit of renewable energy standards is decreased operating costs. The American Farm Bureau Federation estimates higher energy costs added \$1-2 billion to operating costs in 2003.

“Agriculture is heavily dependent on energy, and not only as fuel for equipment,” Frank Priestley of the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

notes. “Most fertilizer is also derived from natural gas. When fuel prices go up it’s a double whammy.”

Renewable electrical generation exerts significant downward pressure on natural gas prices by displacing gas-fired electricity. A national renewable electricity standard would save 1.8 trillion cubic feet of gas annually by 2020 and reduce energy bills by \$26 billion, according to the Union of Concerned Scientists.