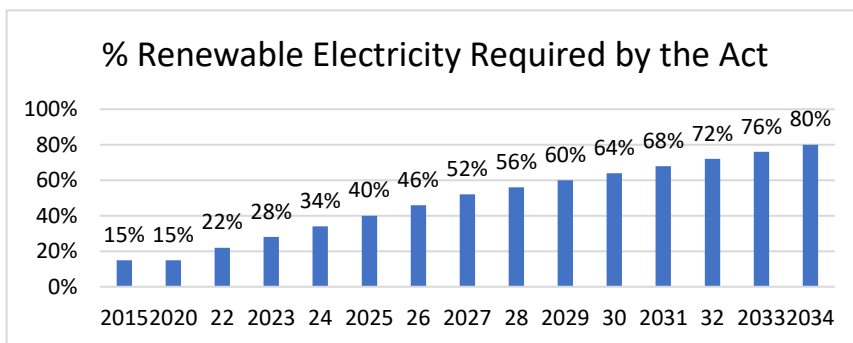


"Montana Renewable Power Production & Rural Economic Development Act" Explained.

This general revision of energy laws (LC2267) bill draft at [LAWS Detailed Bill Information Page \(mt.gov\)](#):

- 1. Establishes a Cohesive Renewable Energy Policy;**
- 2. Requires Investor-Owned Utilities to:**
 - gradually reach 52% renewable energy with battery or pump storage by 2027 and 80% by 2034;
 - meet with any government entity setting a higher percentage goal for renewable energy to determine how the higher standard (e.g., 100%) will be met;
 - limit cost of transitioning to renewables to not more than 2% annually;
- 3. Increases the 308 solar and wind electric generation jobs Montana had in 2017 to replace coal-related employment, while;**
 - requiring grid safety, Montana-preference labor, and prevailing wage rates for those installing renewable energy equipment;
- 4. Promotes continued power sales outside Montana by:**
 - meeting renewable portfolio standards (RPS) electricity sales requirements already law in 29 states & US territories, which are higher than Montana's 15%;
- 5. Sets Statutory Standards:**
 - solving a problem vexing legislators by allowing pre-2005 hydro to be counted toward meeting RPS goals in an innovative way that ensures equal treatment among utilities while guaranteeing consumers do not pay more than necessary for green power;
 - requiring fixed buyouts in lease-purchases so lessees will not pay more than once for a renewable energy system;
- 6. Allows:**
 - renewable energy credits (RECs) to be sold separately from energy;
 - RECs purchased from consumers and community renewable energy facilities to count toward meeting a public utility's RPS goals, and;
- 7. Requires Rural Electric Cooperatives to:**
 - mail-poll members each 4 years asking if they approve voluntary RPS compliance;
 - offer members clean power at prices all members vote on; and
 - restrict new energy supply contracts curtailing dirty-power lock-in clauses.

To do our part in gradually reducing atmospheric CO2 levels that are heating up the earth too much, this Act requires more renewable electricity as shown in the chart below.



Gradual increases in renewables keep Montana products competitive with China which in 2017 surpassed its 2020 goals of investing \$360 billion in renewables and scrapped plans to build 100 coal-fired power plants.

This Act allows for gradual work force downsizing resulting from retirements and other labor transitions. It allows utilities to plan and depreciate

fossil fuel generating assets gradually over 14-years.

By lowering electricity prices, this Act helps keep Montana products competitive with those produced by businesses served by other utilities. For example, MidAmerican Energy in Iowa installed 2 gigawatts of additional winterized wind capacity to reach 83% of the electricity it supplied in 2020 to come from wind. This without a price increase or need to build natural gas plants to provide grid reliability. Iowans and farmers in MidAmerican territory will enjoy \$1.2+ billion in landowner easement and property tax payments. Similar payments here can boost rural economies throughout Montana if we use winterized renewables wisely.

Find out more at www.mtcare.org or the I-187 Facebook group. **2/23/2021**