

Renewable Energy in Montana - Survey for Generators

The Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee (ETIC) of the Legislature is conducting a study of the Montana Renewable Power Production and Rural Economic Development Act. Since 2008, the Montana Renewable Power Production and Rural Economic Development Act required certain utilities to procure a percentage of their resources from renewable resources. As directed by [Senate Joint Resolution No. 6](#), the ETIC is focused on the economic impacts of the renewable portfolio standard, the environmental benefits of the standard, and the impacts the standard has had on Montana consumers. The committee is beginning its work by reaching out to renewable generators in Montana.

You are receiving this questionnaire because you own or operate a project that is an Eligible Renewable Resource or Community Renewable Energy Project certified (or pending certification) by the Montana Public Service Commission. The survey was drafted in an effort to capture questions relevant to all generators, however, some questions may not apply to every entity – particularly entities operating out-of-state.

Please fill out the questionnaire and return it in before **Friday, December 6, 2013**. If you have questions, please contact Sonja Nowakowski, ETIC staff, at 406-444-3078 or snowakowski@mt.gov.

I will follow up with a phone call in the next week to ensure you have received the questionnaire and to inquire if you have any questions. Your input is critical in assisting the committee as it analyzes Montana's Renewable Portfolio Standard and contemplates potential changes to the standard.

1. What is the name of the project?

2. When did ...

	MM	DD	YYYY
... construction of the project begin?	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
... the project begin operating?	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

3. Did Montana's Renewable Portfolio Standard, enacted in 2005, contribute to your decision to build?

- Yes
- No

Please provide details of why it did or did not.

4. What was the project investment (in \$ dollars)?

Renewable Energy in Montana - Survey for Generators

5. How many Montana contractors or subcontractors were hired during construction?

6. Please list the contractors and subcontractors

7. How many people were employed in Montana during construction?

8. What were the average earnings per job?

9. How many full-time permanent jobs has the project created in Montana and what are the average earnings per job?

10. How many Montana or local vendors are utilized in support of the project?

11. In general, can you describe how those vendors are utilized?

Renewable Energy in Montana - Survey for Generators

12. How much in Montana property taxes ([15-6-157, MCA](#)) have been paid for the project in:

Year 1 of construction or operation?

Year 2 of construction or operation?

Year 3 of construction or operation?

Year 4 of construction or operation?

Year 5 of construction or operation?

Year 6 of construction or operation?

13. Is the project currently receiving a state (Montana) or federal tax abatement?

Yes

No

14. What is the abatement?

15. When will the tax abatement expire?

MM DD YYYY

Enter a date:

 / /

16. What are the estimated property taxes following expiration of the abatement?

17. How much in local property taxes ([15-6-157, MCA](#)) have been paid in Montana, and in what county, for the project in:

Year 1 of construction or operation?

Year 2 of construction or operation?

Year 3 of construction or operation?

Year 4 of construction or operation?

Year 5 of construction or operation?

Year 6 of construction or operation?

Renewable Energy in Montana - Survey for Generators

18. What was the amount of business equipment taxes (15-6-138, MCA) paid in Montana conjunction with the project in:

Year 1 of construction or operation?

Year 2 of construction or operation?

Year 3 of construction or operation?

Year 4 of construction or operation?

Year 5 of construction or operation?

Year 6 of construction or operation?

19. Is the project subject to Montana's wholesale energy transaction tax (15-72-104, MCA)?

Yes

No

20. If yes, what was the amount paid in:

Year 1 of operation?

Year 2 of operation?

Year 3 of operation?

Year 4 of operation?

Year 5 of operation?

Year 6 of operation?

21. Is the project subject to Montana's electrical energy producers tax (15-51-101 MCA)?

Yes

No

22. If yes, what was the amount paid in:

Year 1 of operation?

Year 2 of operation?

Year 3 of operation?

Year 4 of operation?

Year 5 of operation?

Year 6 of operation?

Renewable Energy in Montana - Survey for Generators

23. Has the project paid or will the project in the future pay facility impact fees for local governmental units and school districts in Montana ([15-24-3004, MCA](#) and [15-24-3005, MCA](#))?

- Yes
- No

24. If so -

To what government entity?

How much in year 1?

How much in year 2?

How much in year 3?

25. In general terms how much is paid for land leases in Montana needed for the project?

26. How much is paid for Montana state land leases?

27. Are there additional taxes paid in Montana in conjunction with the project that you feel the committee should include in its analysis?

- Yes
- No

Please list those taxes and the year and amount paid

Renewable Energy in Montana - Survey for Generators

28. Have community donations or additional financial contributions been made in the Montana community where the project is located?

- Yes
 No

If yes, please list.

29. Please provide any additional thoughts on how the project has contributed to Montana or your local economy?

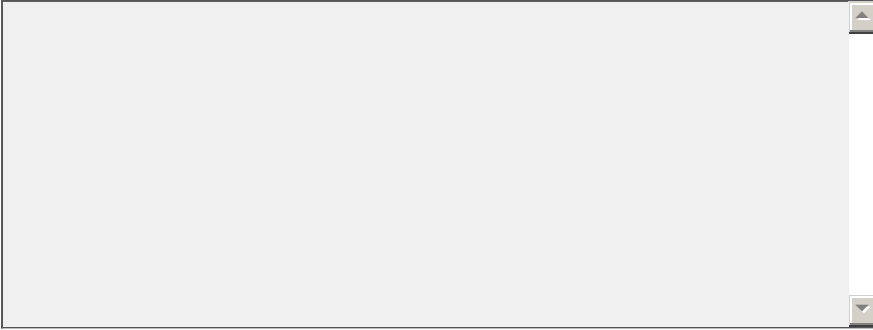
30. Has Montana's renewable energy standard assisted in leveraging Montana's competitive advantage in developing new electric transmission?

- Yes
 No

Please elaborate on why or why not?

Renewable Energy in Montana - Survey for Generators

31. Please provide any additional thoughts on Montana's Renewable Portfolio Standard



***32. FINAL SUBMISSION:**

All questions are complete and this survey is ready for submission (select no if you wish to return and complete this survey later).

- Yes
- No

Renewable Energy in Montana - Survey for Utilities and Suppliers

The Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee (ETIC) of the Legislature is conducting a study of the Montana Renewable Power Production and Rural Economic Development Act. Since 2008, the Montana Renewable Power Production and Rural Economic Development Act required certain utilities to procure a percentage of their resources from renewable resources. As directed by [Senate Joint Resolution No. 6](#), the ETIC is focused on the economic impacts of the renewable portfolio standard, the environmental benefits of the standard, and the impacts the standard has had on Montana consumers. The committee is beginning its work by reaching out to public utilities and electricity suppliers who are or have been in the past subject to the standard or reporting requirements. The survey was drafted in an effort to capture questions relevant to all utilities and suppliers, however, some questions may not apply to every entity.

Please fill out the questionnaire and return it in before **Friday, December 6, 2013**. If you have questions, please contact Sonja Nowakowski, ETIC staff, at 406-444-3078 or snowakowski@mt.gov.

I will follow up with a phone call in the next week to ensure you have received the questionnaire and to inquire if you have any questions. Your input is critical in assisting the committee as it analyzes Montana's Renewable Portfolio Standard and contemplates potential changes to the standard.

1. What is the name of the utility or electricity supplier you represent?

2. What years were or are you subject to Montana's RPS ([69-3-2004, MCA](#))?

3. Have you been able to meet the overall percentage requirements?

- Yes
 No

If not, have you received a waiver for any compliance year?

4. If you received a waiver, what was the overall cost (includes administrative costs) of the waiver?

5. If you have not met the standard or received a waiver, have you paid an administrative penalty?

- Yes
 No

If so, in what amount?

Renewable Energy in Montana - Survey for Utilities and Suppliers

6. What eligible renewable resources have you used to meet the overall percentage standards?

7. Are you subject to the CREP requirement?

- Yes
 No

8. Have you met the CREP requirement?

- Yes
 No

If not, have you received a waiver for any compliance year?

9. If you received a waiver, what was the overall cost (includes administrative costs) of the waiver?

10. If you have not met the requirement or received a waiver, have you paid an administrative penalty?

- Yes
 No

If so, in what amount?

11. What eligible renewable resources have you used to meet the CREP requirement?

12. Who owns the eligible renewable resource(s) you have used to meet the CREP requirement?

Renewable Energy in Montana - Survey for Utilities and Suppliers

13. Has the standard contributed to the diversification of your portfolio in Montana?

- Yes
- No

Please explain how it has or has not.

14. Has the standard led to you reducing your dependence on fossil fuels?

- Yes
- No

Please explain how it has or has not.

15. Has the standard assisted you in hedging against the volatility of fossil fuel markets?

- Yes
- No

Please provide some details on how it has or has not.

Renewable Energy in Montana - Survey for Utilities and Suppliers

16. Has the standard contributed to higher, lower, or neutral costs for your customers?

- Higher
- Lower
- Neutral

Please explain your answer

17. How much has the standard changed, if at all, your average residential customer's monthly utility bill? (indicate increase or decrease)

In 2008?

In 2009?

In 2010?

In 2011?

In 2012?

Projected in 2013 through 2015?

18. How is the standard beneficial to your customers?

Renewable Energy in Montana - Survey for Utilities and Suppliers

19. How is the standard a drawback for your customers?

20. What additional resources have been needed to integrate renewable resources?

21. Would these renewable and integration resources have been added to your portfolio if there was not a standard in Montana?

Yes

No

22. Would you have constructed or acquired these resources at a different size if there was no standard?

Yes

No

23. Please explain your response to 21 and 22 above.

24. How much of the cost of integration resources used in conjunction with the renewable resources used to meet the standard is attributable to the standard?

Renewable Energy in Montana - Survey for Utilities and Suppliers

25. In the 2012 compliance year what was the average unit price, including integration costs, for each renewable resource used to meet the standard (dollars/MWh)?

26. What was the comparable price in 2012 of your supply (not transmission service) resources, including:

Spot/hourly market resources?

Coal resources?

Natural gas resources?

Hydropower resources?

Qualifying facility resources?

Please identify the resources you are using as the basis of the answers above.

27. In the 2010 compliance year what was the average unit price, including integration costs, for each renewable resource used to meet the standard (dollars/MWh)?

28. What was the comparable price in 2010 of your supply (not transmission service) resources, including:

Spot/hourly market resources?

Coal resources?

Natural gas resources?

Hydropower resources?

Qualifying facility resources?

Please identify the resources you are using as the basis of the answers above.

29. In the 2008 compliance year what was the average unit price, including integration costs, for each renewable resource used to meet the standard (dollars/MWh)?

Renewable Energy in Montana - Survey for Utilities and Suppliers

30. What was the comparable price in 2008 of your supply (not transmission service) resources, including:

Spot/hourly market resources?

Coal resources?

Natural gas resources?

Hydropower resources?

Qualifying facility resources?

Please identify the resources you are using as the basis of the answers above.

31. Please provide any additional thoughts on Montana's Renewable Portfolio Standard

*32. FINAL SUBMISSION:

All questions are complete and this survey is ready for submission (select no if you wish to return and complete this survey later).

Yes

No