



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2009 Wisconsin Act 406
[2009 Senate Bill 273]

Renewable Portfolio Standard

Under the renewable portfolio standard (RPS), providers of electric power must ensure that specified percentages of the electricity they sell in a year is derived from renewable resources. An electric provider may create credits if it sells more qualifying electricity in a year than required. Credits can be banked for later use in complying with the RPS requirements or sold in an interstate credit trading market.

2009 Wisconsin Act 406 creates a new type of credit, based on the use of certain non-electric forms of energy by an electric provider or its customers or members, provided that the energy use displaces the use of electricity derived from conventional resources. The forms of energy from which such credits may be created are the following:

- Solar energy, including solar water heating and direct solar applications such as solar light pipe technology.
- Geothermal energy.
- Biomass and biogas.
- Synthetic gas created by the plasma gasification of waste.
- Fuel produced by the pyrolysis of organic or waste material.
- Densified fuel pellets made from certain wastes and having certain properties.

Effective date: Act 406 takes effect on June 3, 2010.

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.