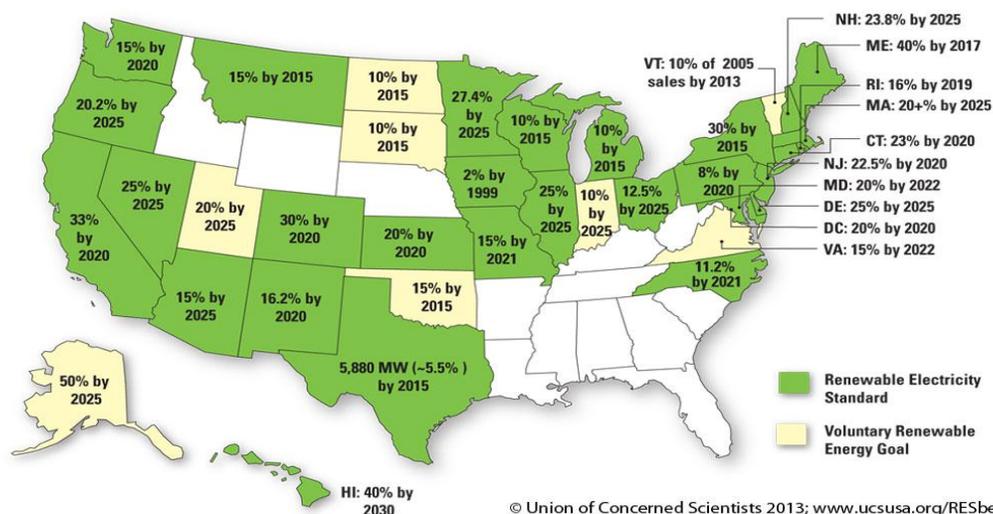


ARE UTILITIES OR STATES THE LEADERS IN RENEWABLE ENERGY & EFFICIENCY?

A June 2014 study by Ceres highlighted **the top electric utilities for renewable energy and efficiency**. In an article discussing the findings, Utility Dive suggested that there are “wide disparities [...] in the extent to which electric utilities currently deliver renewable energy and energy efficiency.”

To find the source of these disparities, look no further than the state policies governing these “leaders.”

State Renewable Electricity Standards



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State-level renewable electricity standards are a leading driver of wind, solar, and other renewable development in the United States. Twenty-nine states and the District of Columbia have renewable electricity standards in place, 17 of which have set targets at 20 percent or greater. Another eight states have voluntary targets for renewable electricity.

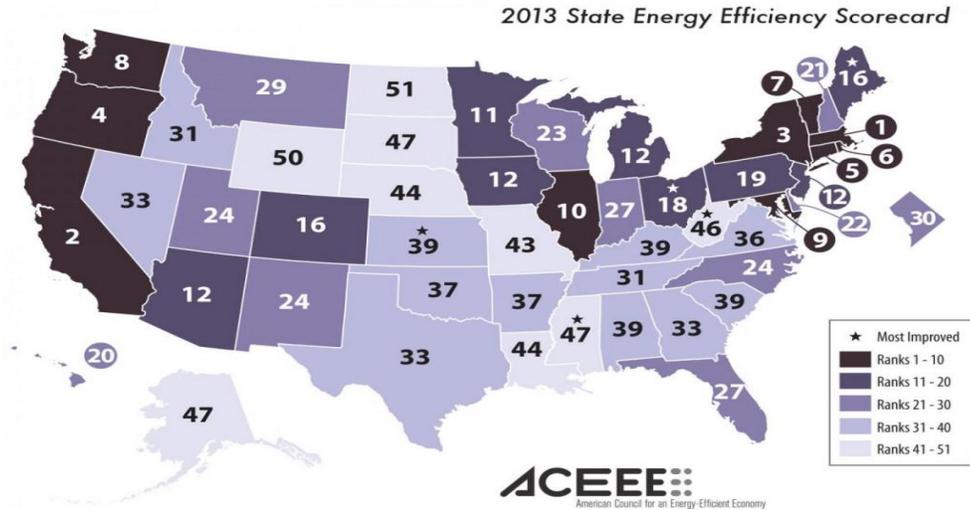
For example, #1 ranked NV Energy (Nevada) is required to meet a 25% renewable energy standard by 2025. Xcel Energy, ranked #2, is required to deliver just over 27% renewable energy no later than 2020 (a weighted average across its service territories in Minnesota, Colorado, New Mexico, & Wisconsin).* Pacific Gas & Electric (#3), Sempra Energy (#4), and Edison International (#5) are California's three investor-owned utilities, all facing a 33% by 2020 renewable energy standard.

State Policy Makes Renewable Energy Leaders Among Utilities

Utility	Rank	State Renewable Mandate
NV Energy	1	25% by 2025
Xcel Energy	2	27% by 2020
Pacific Gas & Electric	3	33% by 2020
Sempra Energy	4	33% by 2020
Edison International	5	33% by 2020

Five top-ranked utilities, serving five states with ambitious renewable energy policies. Hardly coincidence.

The top utilities for energy efficiency? Four of the five from above, substituting Northeast Utilities for NV Energy. Let's see how the energy efficiency policies in the states where they operate stack up.



The three California utilities make the top 5 list, and the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) rates California’s energy efficiency policy #2 in the nation. Northeast Utilities serves primarily Massachusetts and Connecticut customers, ranked #1 and #5 respectively. Xcel Energy may be the only surprise. The weighted average of state energy efficiency policies where it serves is #15. And why didn’t NV Energy make the list? Perhaps because state energy efficiency policy in Nevada ranks #33 according to ACEEE.

State Policy Makes Energy Efficiency Leaders Among Utilities

Utility	Rank	ACEEE Rank of State Efficiency Policy
Pacific Gas & Electric	1	#2
Edison International	2	#2
Northeast Utilities	3	#1, #5
Sempra Energy	4	#2
Xcel Energy	5	#15 (weighted average)

Five top-ranked utilities and at least four in states with ambitious energy efficiency policies. Hardly coincidence here, either.

There's nothing wrong with applauding electric utilities for advancing toward a more efficient, low-carbon electricity system, but neither should we overlook who's responsible. It's state legislators that have forced these energy companies into leadership, and who have received plaudits or penalties at the ballot box.

Source: <http://cleantechnica.com/2015/02/26/utilities-states-leaders-renewable-energy-efficiency/>