
SENATE BILL 6028

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

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By Senator Baumgartner

Read first time 01/14/14. Referred to Committee on Energy, Environment & Telecommunications.

1 AN ACT Relating to declaring electricity from a generation facility
2 powered by the combustion of solid waste in a municipally owned energy
3 recovery facility to be an eligible renewable resource for the purposes
4 of chapter 19.285 RCW, the energy independence act; and reenacting and
5 amending RCW 19.285.030.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

7 **Sec. 1.** RCW 19.285.030 and 2013 c 158 s 1, 2013 c 99 s 1, and 2013
8 c 61 s 1 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

9 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter
10 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

11 (1) "Attorney general" means the Washington state office of the
12 attorney general.

13 (2) "Auditor" means: (a) The Washington state auditor's office or
14 its designee for qualifying utilities under its jurisdiction that are
15 not investor-owned utilities; or (b) an independent auditor selected by
16 a qualifying utility that is not under the jurisdiction of the state
17 auditor and is not an investor-owned utility.

18 (3)(a) "Biomass energy" includes: (i) Organic by-products of
19 pulping and the wood manufacturing process; (ii) animal manure; (iii)

1 solid organic fuels from wood; (iv) forest or field residues; (v)
2 untreated wooden demolition or construction debris; (vi) food waste and
3 food processing residuals; (vii) liquors derived from algae; (viii)
4 dedicated energy crops; and (ix) yard waste.

5 (b) "Biomass energy" does not include: (i) Wood pieces that have
6 been treated with chemical preservatives such as creosote,
7 pentachlorophenol, or copper-chrome-arsenic; (ii) wood from old growth
8 forests; or (iii) municipal solid waste.

9 (4) "Coal transition power" has the same meaning as defined in RCW
10 80.80.010.

11 (5) "Commission" means the Washington state utilities and
12 transportation commission.

13 (6) "Conservation" means any reduction in electric power
14 consumption resulting from increases in the efficiency of energy use,
15 production, or distribution.

16 (7) "Cost-effective" has the same meaning as defined in RCW
17 80.52.030.

18 (8) "Council" means the Washington state apprenticeship and
19 training council within the department of labor and industries.

20 (9) "Customer" means a person or entity that purchases electricity
21 for ultimate consumption and not for resale.

22 (10) "Department" means the department of commerce or its
23 successor.

24 (11) "Distributed generation" means an eligible renewable resource
25 where the generation facility or any integrated cluster of such
26 facilities has a generating capacity of not more than five megawatts.

27 (12) "Eligible renewable resource" means:

28 (a) Electricity from a generation facility powered by a renewable
29 resource other than solid waste or freshwater that commences operation
30 after March 31, 1999, where: (i) The facility is located in the
31 Pacific Northwest; or (ii) the electricity from the facility is
32 delivered into Washington state on a real-time basis without shaping,
33 storage, or integration services;

34 (b) Incremental electricity produced as a result of efficiency
35 improvements completed after March 31, 1999, to hydroelectric
36 generation projects owned by a qualifying utility and located in the
37 Pacific Northwest or to hydroelectric generation in irrigation pipes

1 and canals located in the Pacific Northwest, where the additional
2 generation in either case does not result in new water diversions or
3 impoundments;

4 (c)(i) Electricity from a generation facility, which commences
5 operation after September 1, 1991, that is powered by the combustion of
6 solid waste in a municipally owned energy recovery facility located on
7 a business park owned and operated under the provisions of chapter
8 14.08 RCW;

9 (ii) For the purposes of (c)(i) of this subsection, "energy
10 recovery" has the same meaning as defined in RCW 70.95.030;

11 (d) Qualified biomass energy; or

12 ~~((d))~~ (e) For a qualifying utility that serves customers in other
13 states, electricity from a generation facility powered by a renewable
14 resource other than freshwater that commences operation after March 31,
15 1999, where: (i) The facility is located within a state in which the
16 qualifying utility serves retail electrical customers; and (ii) the
17 qualifying utility owns the facility in whole or in part or has a long-
18 term contract with the facility of at least twelve months or more.

19 (13) "Investor-owned utility" has the same meaning as defined in
20 RCW 19.29A.010.

21 (14) "Load" means the amount of kilowatt-hours of electricity
22 delivered in the most recently completed year by a qualifying utility
23 to its Washington retail customers.

24 (15)(a) "Nonpower attributes" means all environmentally related
25 characteristics, exclusive of energy, capacity reliability, and other
26 electrical power service attributes, that are associated with the
27 generation of electricity from a renewable resource, including but not
28 limited to the facility's fuel type, geographic location, vintage,
29 qualification as an eligible renewable resource, and avoided emissions
30 of pollutants to the air, soil, or water, and avoided emissions of
31 carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

32 (b) "Nonpower attributes" does not include any aspects, claims,
33 characteristics, and benefits associated with the on-site capture and
34 destruction of methane or other greenhouse gases at a facility through
35 a digester system, landfill gas collection system, or other mechanism,
36 which may be separately marketable as greenhouse gas emission reduction
37 credits, offsets, or similar tradable commodities. However, these

1 separate avoided emissions may not result in or otherwise have the
2 effect of attributing greenhouse gas emissions to the electricity.

3 (16) "Pacific Northwest" has the same meaning as defined for the
4 Bonneville power administration in section 3 of the Pacific Northwest
5 electric power planning and conservation act (94 Stat. 2698; 16 U.S.C.
6 Sec. 839a).

7 (17) "Public facility" has the same meaning as defined in RCW
8 39.35C.010.

9 (18) "Qualified biomass energy" means electricity produced from a
10 biomass energy facility that: (a) Commenced operation before March 31,
11 1999; (b) contributes to the qualifying utility's load; and (c) is
12 owned either by: (i) A qualifying utility; or (ii) an industrial
13 facility that is directly interconnected with electricity facilities
14 that are owned by a qualifying utility and capable of carrying
15 electricity at transmission voltage.

16 (19) "Qualifying utility" means an electric utility, as the term
17 "electric utility" is defined in RCW 19.29A.010, that serves more than
18 twenty-five thousand customers in the state of Washington. The number
19 of customers served may be based on data reported by a utility in form
20 861, "annual electric utility report," filed with the energy
21 information administration, United States department of energy.

22 (20) "Renewable energy credit" means a tradable certificate of
23 proof of at least one megawatt-hour of an eligible renewable resource
24 where the generation facility is not powered by freshwater. The
25 certificate includes all of the nonpower attributes associated with
26 that one megawatt-hour of electricity, and the certificate is verified
27 by a renewable energy credit tracking system selected by the
28 department.

29 (21) "Renewable resource" means: (a) Water; (b) wind; (c) solar
30 energy; (d) geothermal energy; (e) landfill gas; (f) wave, ocean, or
31 tidal power; (g) gas from sewage treatment facilities; (h) biodiesel
32 fuel as defined in RCW 82.29A.135 that is not derived from crops raised
33 on land cleared from old growth or first-growth forests where the
34 clearing occurred after December 7, 2006; or (i) biomass energy.

35 (22) "Rule" means rules adopted by an agency or other entity of
36 Washington state government to carry out the intent and purposes of
37 this chapter.

1 (23) "Solid waste" has the same meaning as defined in RCW
2 70.95.030.

3 (24) "Year" means the twelve-month period commencing January 1st
4 and ending December 31st.

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