

# Gov. Scott Walker's record on renewable energy

The following is the full text of an email sent by Laurel Patrick, a spokeswoman for Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, in response to a request for comment about the governor's record on renewable energy. That request cited numbers indicating an apparent decline in the state's development of new solar and wind sources. It also asked whether the governor would support raising the percentage of electric energy that state utilities are required to get from all forms of renewable sources from the current ten percent to some higher threshold.

Patrick's reply:

Thanks for sending that information along. The data and your questions are focused on only two areas of renewable energy – solar and wind power. Those don't provide a full picture of the steps Governor Walker has taken to promote and support renewable energy and energy efficiency during his administration. Governor Walker wants residents and businesses to have as many options as possible when it comes to energy resources in the state.

I'm providing a link to a report on the Rate and Revenue Impacts of the Wisconsin Renewable Portfolio Standard. The Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) statewide goal was to have 10 percent of total electricity sales from renewable energy resources by 2015. We met this goal in 2013 – two years ahead of schedule. This [memo](#) from PSC forecasts that Wisconsin will be at 11.5 percent by 2016.

Additionally, many of Wisconsin's sites with the greatest wind resource potential have been developed (see [map](#) showing Wisconsin's wind resource as it compares to other states). It's worth mentioning that a large wind farm project is approved to

move forward in Western Wisconsin.

We also look to one of Wisconsin's main economic industries – agriculture – for energy alternatives. Governor Walker included exemptions for biodigesters from property taxes in the state budget. This program is to promote the use of alternative energies locally. We believe this is a useful program for Wisconsin's agriculture industry, and we support people, particularly farmers, in their efforts to find innovative solutions to meet their energy needs.

Additionally – this spring, [Governor Walker announced](#) grants available to Wisconsin farmers to buy energy efficient grain dryers, in order to ease the demand for propane.

Governor Walker has continued the [Diesel Truck Idling Reduction Grant program](#) providing incentives for motor carriers to purchase small-scale generators allowing them to operate their rigs when drivers are pulled over. In the past, time spent idling without small-scale generators meant letting off large amounts of emissions. These small-scale motor generators greatly reduce emissions, as well as costs for the trucking company.

You may want to check out more on Wisconsin's Focus On Energy program that administers the state's energy efficiency programs. Focus on Energy includes components focused on providing grants to help residents and businesses become more energy efficient and funds some renewable energy subsidies. This program's website shows the [number and types of renewable energy projects](#) moving forward in the state during the first quarter of 2014, as well as the amount of [funding available](#) for residents interested in renewable energy projects in their homes.

The Wisconsin State Energy Office under DOA is also undertaking several environmental and energy initiatives that include providing revolving loan funds to manufacturers to help them create jobs and save energy. They have also financed projects at 5 craft breweries to make them more energy efficient. These are just two examples of the many efforts and projects under this office. DOA can provide

additional information if you're looking for more details.

Also, please see the [release](#) from DOA today that the State Energy Office received \$325,000 in grants to promote industrial energy efficiency and biomass projects.

Renewable energy isn't only confined to wind and solar power, so therefore it is inaccurate to base Governor Walker's record on renewable energy on those two types alone. Please let me know if you need additional information.

Thanks.

*Laurel Patrick | Press Secretary  
Office of Governor Scott Walker*