

# ACHIEVING 100% CLEAN ELECTRICITY BY 2035 WITH A FEDERAL CLEAN ELECTRICITY STANDARD

There is a growing understanding that America's power sector can and must get to 100% clean electricity by 2035, a target that has been formally adopted by the Biden Administration. 100% clean electricity by 2035 is the foundation of getting to zero-carbon economy-wide by 2050, which science indicates is necessary to avoid the worst impacts of the climate crisis.

Decarbonizing the power grid by 2035 will require a suite of actions, the most effective of which is a Clean Electricity Standard (CES), which could be implemented as a Clean Electricity Payment Program (CEPP), requiring the electricity sector to reach **80% clean electricity by 2030 and fully decarbonize by 2035**.

## WHAT IS A CLEAN ELECTRICITY STANDARD (CES)?

A clean electricity standard is a policy that requires utilities to use clean energy resources to generate a minimum portion of all energy by a certain date. Since the first renewable standard was passed in Iowa in 1983, more than 30 states and territories have adopted similar standards, giving states and utilities throughout the U.S. a lot of experience with this kind of policy.

## IS 100% CLEAN POWER BY 2035 FEASIBLE?

Analysis by the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy shows that not only is it possible for the four largest utilities in the Southeast to achieve 80% clean electricity by 2030 and 100% clean electricity by 2035, but there are several pathways to get there. A variety of different energy technologies and programs can be deployed to reach this goal. **The key takeaway is that we need to start now.**

For more, view SACE blog post, "[Report: Achieving 100% Clean Electricity in the Southeast.](#)"

## A CLEAN ELECTRICITY STANDARD WOULD SAVE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF LIVES AND MAKE US HEALTHIER

Analysis by the Clean Energy Futures project – a team with researchers from Georgia Institute of Technology; Syracuse University; Harvard T.H. Chan Center for Climate, Health, and the Global Environment; and Resources for the Future – finds that an 80% clean electricity standard by 2030 would prevent hundreds of thousands of premature deaths and deliver well over a trillion dollars' worth of health and climate benefits between now and 2050. The researchers found that the costs of getting to 80% clean power by 2030 were outweighed several times over in savings in public health and climate costs.

For more, view SACE blog post, "[Report Finds Clean Electricity Standard Would Save Hundreds of Thousands of Lives.](#)"

## A CLEAN POWER GRID IS THE CORNERSTONE OF A BROADER CLEAN ENERGY TRANSFORMATION

The benefits of a CES are multiplied when vehicles and home appliances also switch from burning gasoline, diesel, or fossil gas to being powered by electricity. Combining a 100% clean electricity grid with the electrification of vehicles, buildings, and some industry would achieve national greenhouse gas emission reductions of 70-80%.

For more, view SACE blog post, [“The Multiplier Effect: 100% Clean Electricity Standard + Electrification.”](#)

## TRANSITIONING TO 100% CLEAN POWER AND ELECTRIFYING COULD CREATE MILLIONS OF WELL-PAYING JOBS AND REDUCE HOUSEHOLD BILLS

Getting to a 100% clean power grid, combined with electrifying vehicles and other fossil fuel burning sources, could, according to expert analysis, over the next 30 years create millions of new jobs and save every household hundreds of dollars per year in lower costs.

For more, view SACE blog post, [“The Multiplier Effect: 100% Clean Electricity Standard + Electrification.”](#)

## A CES WOULD HELP BUILD SOCIAL AND RACIAL JUSTICE

President Biden has called for at least 40% of all economic investments and benefits of the federal clean energy agenda to accrue to historically disadvantaged communities and communities of color. Analysis by the Clean Energy Futures project – a team with researchers from Georgia Institute of Technology; Syracuse University; Harvard T.H. Chan Center for Climate, Health, and the Global Environment; and Resources for the Future – finds that cleaner air from transitioning to clean power would benefit the health of all racial and ethnic groups, and that “non-Hispanic Black people are estimated to experience the largest reductions in average population-weighted exposure in absolute terms” to ozone and fine particulate matter pollution. Along similar lines, other research has found the public health impacts of climate change fall disproportionately on children, older adults, low-income communities, some communities of color, and those experiencing discrimination, meaning that addressing those climate risks by transitioning to clean energy would help build social and racial equity.

For more view SACE blog post, [“SACE and Allies Urge Congress to Pass Legislation Requiring 100% Clean Electricity in the United States by 2035,”](#) SACE blog post, [“Report Finds Clean Electricity Standard Would Save Hundreds of Thousands of Lives.”](#) and U.S. National Climate Assessment, Chapter 14 Key Message #2: [“Exposure and Resilience Vary Across Populations and Communities.”](#)

## 100% CLEAN ELECTRICITY IS POPULAR WITH VOTERS

Recent polling found a clear majority of voters support the United States getting to 100% clean power by 2035.

For more, see Evergreen Collaborative/Data For Progress report, [A Roadmap to 100% Clean Electricity by 2035](#), and SACE/Data For Progress memo, [“Georgia Voters Support the Clean Electricity Standard.”](#)

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### ABOUT SACE

The Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE) is a nonprofit organization that promotes responsible and equitable energy choices to ensure clean, safe, and healthy communities throughout the Southeast. As a leading voice for energy policy in our region, SACE is a regional organization focused on transforming the way we produce and consume energy in the Southeast.