



# Renewables Funding and the Clean Energy Jobs Act



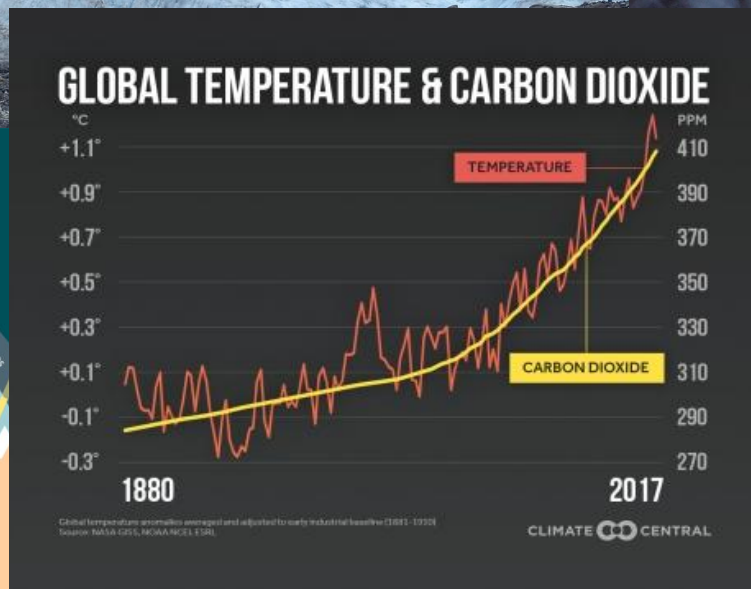
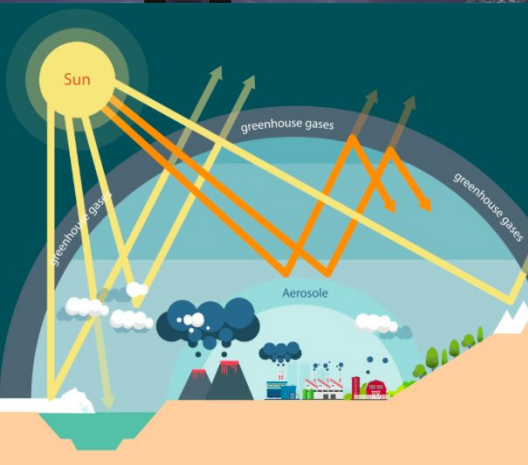
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# Climate Crisis



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# Journey to 100% Renewable



- **2001:** Illinois sets voluntary goal of 5% renewable energy by 2010 and 15% by 2020
- **2005:** Illinois Commerce Commission passes resolution to get to 8% by 2013
- **2007:** Illinois Power Agency Act establishes Renewable Portfolio Standard goal of 13% by 2017 and 25% by 2025
- **2016:** Illinois passes the Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA)



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# Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)



Many forms of renewable energy are already cost-effective compared to fossil fuels.

But market transition requires facilitation to overcome inertia and forces that support the status quo.

And fossil fuels still benefit from enormous subsidies at the state, regional, and federal levels.

So we, as a coalition, passed the Future Energy Jobs Act to fix our broken renewable energy policies and kickstart the journey towards our goal of 25% renewable energy by 2025.



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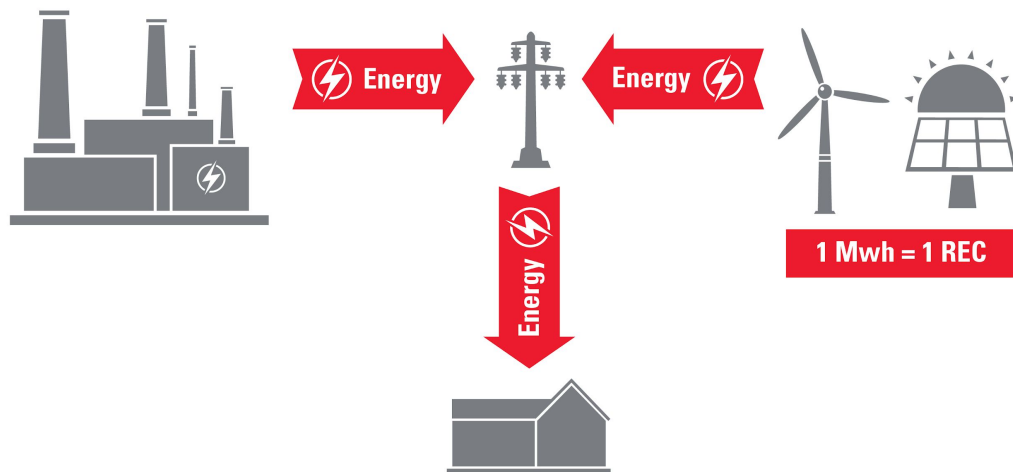
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# So how do we track progress?



- Illinois electric utilities are required to buy and “retire” Renewable Energy Credits (RECs).
- RECs represent the environmental benefits of renewable energy.
- Renewable energy developers use the payments from RECs to overcome market barriers and build more wind and solar.

## Renewable Energy Certificates (REC's)



A REC serves as “proof” that 1 Mwh of renewable energy was generated and can be purchased separate from electrical service.

Credit: Xcel Energy



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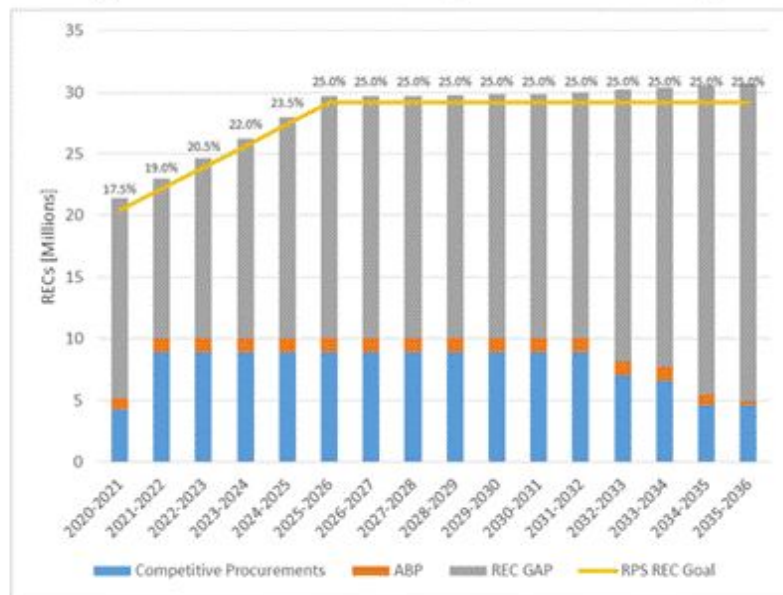
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# So how are we doing?



Figure 3-1: Statewide Annual RPS Goal, REC Portfolio and REC Gap



Credit: Illinois Power Agency

Where we should be!

Where we are.

## Important!

This graph from the IPA does not show new funding each year. This shows the number of RECs that the state has bought/retired. When the blue and orange bars plateau, no new funding is available.



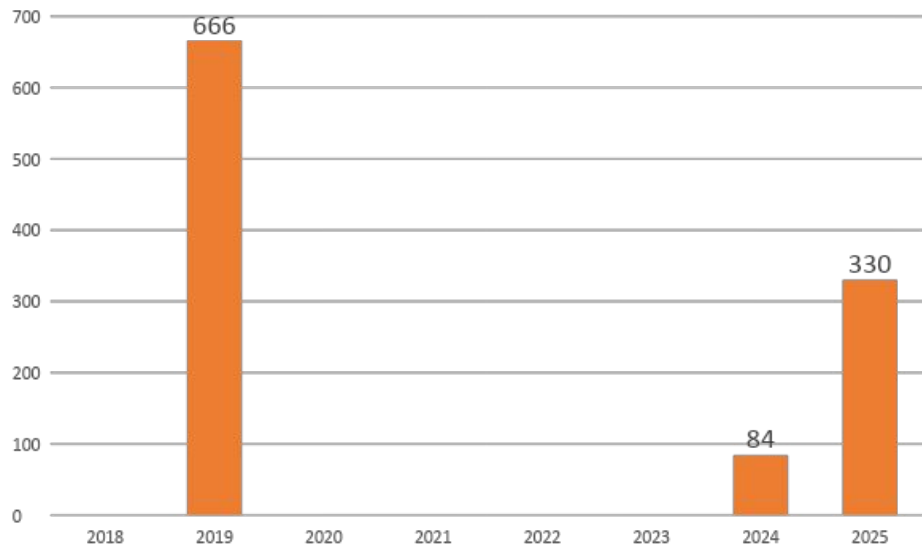
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# In other words, the cliff is here.



The bars represent the amount of renewable energy (in megawatts) that is funded and made possible each year through FEJA-enabled programs. Note the four year (2020-2023) gap in funding.



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# What happens to the jobs?



TOP 10 STATES WITH SOLAR JOBS GROWTH

STATE	2018 Jobs	2019 Jobs	% Increase in Jobs 2018-2019	Jobs Added 2018-2019
Illinois	4,879	5,513	13.0%	634

Credit: Solar Foundation

- Solar jobs continued to grow in 2019.
- Illinois has some of the fastest growth in the country - 13% growth from 2018 - despite the looming uncertainty.
- However, the pace is already slowing. **This same report showed 36.6% growth the previous year.**
- Many, many people with jobs in the renewable energy sector will be out of work **if we do not pass legislation this session.**



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# Bad News: Most programs are already impacted



All renewables contracted through “competitive procurements” (wind farms, large-scale solar farms, brownfield solar).

Most solar contracted through the “Adjustable Block Program:” larger rooftop solar projects – meaning any projects on stores, businesses, schools, non-profits, public facilities, apartment buildings, large homes, and farms – as well as all community solar.

These programs produce the vast majority of renewable energy growth and are therefore critical for achieving Illinois’s climate goals.



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# Good News: Some programs are not (yet) impacted



Small rooftop solar – projects below  
~30-40 panels, mostly small and  
average-size homes\*

Illinois Solar for All Program – includes  
limited low-income residential rooftop  
projects and a handful of non-profit,  
public facility, and low-income  
community solar projects each year

\* Small rooftop not affected so far, but as the program accelerates it could  
run into the same constraints faced by Large DG



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How does climate change and/or pollution impact your life?

Do you know anyone who has or is interested in having a job in renewable energy? How might this uncertainty change their thinking?

Who benefits if we let renewables funding expire?



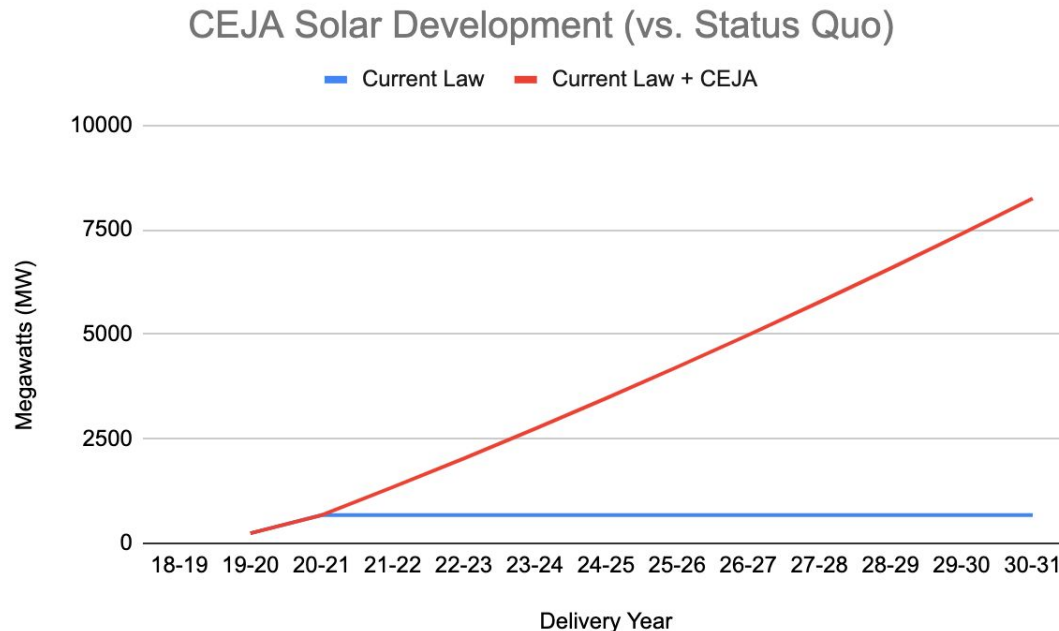
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# CEJA Fixes the Renewables Cliff



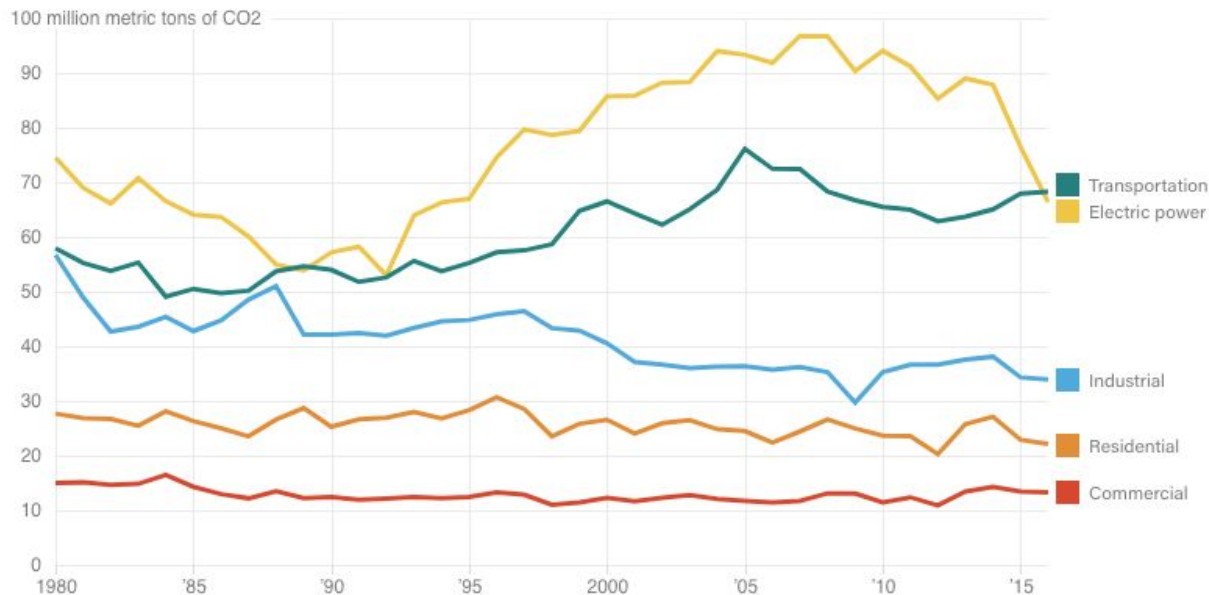
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# Transportation is now the largest CO2 contributor



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration – [Carbon Dioxide Emissions Data](#) (Illinois)

Credit: BGA



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