

# **Florida considers the most aggressive renewable energy portfolio standards in the Nations**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – In Florida the Senate Utilities and Communications Committee, the state Senate passed what would be the most stringent renewable energy requirements for electricity generation in the nation.

Senator Mike Bennett's energy plan would require half (50 %) of new electricity in Florida to be generated with renewable energies such as biomass, wind and solar by 2017. Florida currently generate about 2.5 percent its electricity using renewable fuels, instead relying primarily on natural gas, coal and petroleum – all fossil fuels.

The 50 percent figure may change during upcoming negotiations, but it signals that some state lawmakers want Florida to join at least 20 other states and the District of Columbia, which currently have renewable portfolio standards for electricity production. Minnesota, for example, has a requirement of 25 percent by 2025 – the highest percentage of any state to date, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

“ This is an important step in the right direction for Florida. Florida will now take its rightful place as a leader in the promotion of renewable energy”, Michael, Dobson, President of the Florida Renewable Energy Producers Association. This issue is far from being settled since the House energy plan does not have this measure. The house wants tax incentives and grants to spur the production of renewable fuels such as ethanol, which experts have said could be readily produced in Florida using materials such as citrus and yard waste.

For renewable energy development firms such as BioEnergy Solutions, Inc of Tallahassee or BioRenewable Projects, LLC of San Diego (whom is actively pursuing renewable energy projects in Florida), this is a very important and timely policy move for Florida, said Michael Dobson.