



RENEWABLE ENERGY PAYMENTS (REP) FOR THE UNITED STATES, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY CONSULTING WORKSHOP

Why renewable energy? Renewable energy development is key to combating climate change and ensuring energy security, while simultaneously accelerating job growth and economic recovery.

Why Renewable Energy Payments? REPs (commonly called feed-in tariffs in Europe) are the only proven policy instrument capable of fostering rapid development of Renewable Energy. Countries like Germany, Denmark, and Spain have become world leaders in the rapidly expanding wind and solar industries, by providing renewable energy producers with grid access and a guaranteed rate of return. The Obama Administration has called for the rapid development of clean energy technologies, but has yet to adopt policies that will create significant growth in the sector. REPs are in need of a campaign combining in-depth policy analysis with powerful, supporting arguments that develop into compelling communication. Only then can widespread adoption be achieved at the federal, state, and municipal level.

What are the challenges that face REPs?

- Lack of knowledge of REP advantages and possibilities
- Some stakeholder opposition (utilities, generators, politicians)
- An economy heavily dependent on fossil fuel
- Competing clean energy legislation

How do we plan to address these challenges?

- Create a “Gold Standard” model for implementing REP policies in the U.S., as well as a methodology for ranking states by their potential to adopt and successfully implement REPs
- Research and understand target stakeholder opinions, and develop campaign materials to address specific stakeholder concerns
- Research and evaluate the benefits of REPs, through the comparative analysis of successful European models
- Provide compelling arguments supported by empirical evidence as to why REP will be the most effective policy at developing the clean energy sector

Why does this campaign need you?

Academics are vital to this campaign for the following reasons:

- **Expertise:** New policies must reflect in depth knowledge of issues such as political context, scientific knowledge and social background
- **Getting it right:** As examples from Europe demonstrate, there is a steep learning curve when it comes to policy implementation. Academic research and peer review will speed up the process of refining the policy
- **Instigating discussion:** Moving this policy discussion into academic circles will broaden the spectrum of interest and hopefully build support for REPs

Want to know more?

Visit: www.allianceforrenewableenergy.org