

The ARE and Renewable Energy Payments: A Campaign in Motion Embraced by Columbia University Graduate Consultancy Team

EarthAction and the Alliance for Renewable Energy (ARE) are currently conducting a campaign to encourage widespread adoption of renewable energy payments (REPs) policy in the United States. As part of these efforts to foster development of renewable energy, they have engaged a consulting team of graduate students from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs to research, evaluate, and synthesize data for the campaign. These students, earning their master of public administration degrees in environmental science and policy, bring their training and diverse expertise to this as culmination of their professionalizing curriculum.

The Columbia consultants are taking a five-pronged approach to produce deliverables:

- Research and evaluate the benefits of REPs, notably through the comparative analysis of successful European models
- Provide the ARE with strategic recommendations and tools to effectively support renewable energy policies in the U.S, concentrating on target stakeholders
- Create a "Gold Standard" model for the implementation of REPs policies in a U.S. state, which will be applied in a REPs policy design for New York State to assess the major challenges of promoting this tool in metropolitan areas with low renewable energy endowment
- Create a methodology for ranking states by their potential to adopt and successfully implement REPs
- Create web pages and updated, adaptive materials for action kits to deploy in ARE's campaign

As we develop these deliverables, we will contribute updates to the ARE by:

- Providing regular inputs of interesting resources and research findings to the ARE website (<http://www.allianceforrenewableenergy.org>).
- Conducting interviews with key stakeholders and interest groups to better understand their individual needs and challenges with REPs policy introduction

The CU consultancy project began in January 2009; fortuitous timing for the new energy policy climate in the United States. The CU consultancy team looks forward to contributing to such pressing policy development. REPs have been integral in developing renewable energy in Europe and the policy tool represents an invaluable opportunity for widespread adoption of renewable energy in the United States.

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