



[UNLEASHING THE POWER OF GREEN]

1207 Grandview Avenue, Suite 201
Columbus, Ohio 43212

(614) 487-7506
www.theOEC.org

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Contact: Nolan Moser
(614) 487-7506 (office)
(707) 225-4397 (cell)
Nolan@theOEC.org

OEC lauds new PUCO rules for clean energy

New rules will unleash Ohio's untapped green energy reserves

Columbus, OH –The Ohio Environmental Council is praising the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio for its long-awaited rules to implement a landmark new state law passed last year to step up investment in clean energy. The law, adopted May 1, 2008, requires electric utility companies to invest in energy-efficient technologies, such as high-efficiency lights and insulation, and in renewable energy sources, including wind, solar, hydro, and bio-mass.

“The PUCO has faithfully implemented the spirit of the new law as provided by the General Assembly,” said Nolan Moser, Staff Attorney, and Energy and Clean Air Program Director for the Ohio Environmental Council (OEC). “Now, it is time for the investor-owned utility companies to begin unleashing the power of green energy. Investing in energy efficiency technologies and in clean, renewable energy sources will save consumers and businesses money, grown new jobs, and shrink greenhouse gases and other harmful emissions.”

The new law and rules include the following key provisions:

- **Energy Efficiency** – Utilities will help their customers use energy more efficiently in order to meet annual energy reduction targets, reducing demand by at least 0.3% in 2009 and topping off at 2% in 2018. By law, each utility company must achieve 22% cumulative energy savings by 2025.
- **Renewable Energy** – Utilities will diversify their fuel supplies to tap increasing amounts of wind, solar, hydro, and other renewable energy in order to meet annual renewable energy benchmarks, obtaining at least 0.25% of their energy in 2009 and 12.5% by 2025 from renewable energy.
- **Greenhouse Gas Registry** – Power plant owners will be required to file annual reports on greenhouse gas emissions to PUCO and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

A major question resolved by the rules is a cost cap the law placed on renewable energy. Instead of the option to compare the cost of power generated by renewable energy to cheap power produced by a dirty, old coal-fired plant, utilities must compare the cost of their entire generation portfolio with that of renewable fuels to see if the cost cap has been breached.

“Credit the PUCO and Strickland Administration for siding with clean energy,” said Moser.

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The mission of the Ohio Environmental Council (OEC) is to secure healthy air, land, and water for all who call Ohio home. The OEC is Ohio's leading advocate for fresh air, clean water, and sustainable land use. The OEC has a 40-year history of innovation, pragmatism, and success. Using legislative initiatives, legal action, scientific principles, and statewide partnerships, the OEC secures a healthier environment for Ohio's families and communities. For more information, visit www.theOEC.org.