

## Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act 213 of 2004

On February 29, 2005, Pennsylvania's Act 213 took effect. To encourage reliance on more diverse sources of electricity and to preserve the environment, the act set goals for electricity providers. The requirements set a standard that electric distribution companies obtain at least 18 percent of the electricity they sell from alternative energy sources. This goal must be met within the upcoming 15 years.

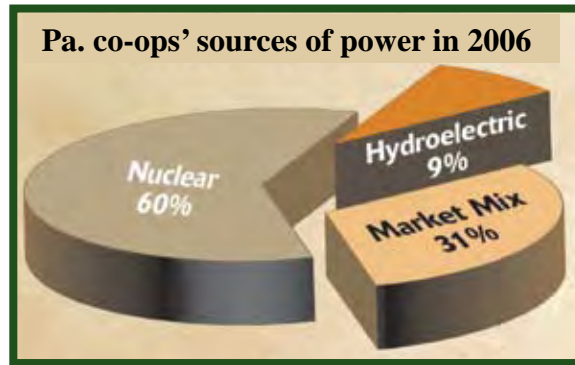
(Search portfolio standards Act 213)



Some members of Congress are encouraging national portfolio standards legislation based on Pennsylvania's Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act, since Pennsylvania's approach is based on input from all sectors of the economy, including the electric industry.

Learn more at [renewableenergylaw.blogspot.com](http://renewableenergylaw.blogspot.com)  
Go to energy independence strategy and click on legislation to read the full report.

## Nuclear energy's role



This chart shows Adams Electric's power supply mix. The majority is from nuclear power.

### Nuclear energy

- Does not produce carbon dioxide, a factor in global warming.
- Does not cause air pollution or emit precursors that cause acid rain.
- Has saved Americans \$44 billion in electricity costs since 1973.
- Without nuclear power plants, electric utility companies' emissions of nitrogen oxides would increase 2 million tons per year.
- Nuclear energy reduces our dependence on imported oil, often from nations with unstable political situations.
- Nuclear energy accounts for 19 percent of the power supply in the U.S.



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# Adams Electric encourages renewable energy projects

## WATER

Water power is a clean power. It doesn't pollute the atmosphere, produce waste or require fuel burning. In the U.S., hydroelectric plants generate about 10 percent of the total electricity in the nation.



### Raystown Hydroelectric Plant

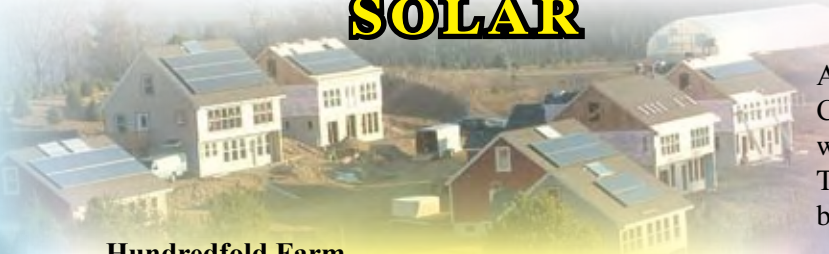
Located on the Raystown Dam in Huntingdon County, PA, this 21-megawatt run-of-river facility can produce enough electricity for up to 8,500 rural homes. Money from the sale of the project's "green attributes" help fund Pennsylvania's electric cooperatives' Renewable Energy Assistance Program. Learn more at [www.prea.com](http://www.prea.com)



### Niagara Project Hydropower

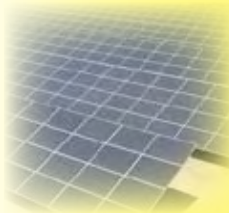
Pennsylvania's 13 electric cooperatives share in a portion of the power generated by the New York Power Authority's Niagara Project. Learn more at <http://niagara.nypa.gov/>

## SOLAR



### Hundredfold Farm

This unique development near Cashtown in Adams County, PA uses both photovoltaic panels to generate electricity and solar panels for water heating. Adams Electric has worked closely with this housing facility since its inception. Learn more at [www.hundredfoldfarm.org](http://www.hundredfoldfarm.org)



A photovoltaic solar panel is a device that converts light energy into electrical energy. When sunlight strikes the cells in the panels, which are made of thin layers of silicone, an electrical current is produced.

**Solar collectors** provide space heating and hot water. Fluid is circulated through tubes in the panels, which are glass-covered plates over a black background. Solar radiation is absorbed by the black background, which heats the fluid, transferring heat to the water.



Learn more at [www.eia.doe.gov/fuelrenewable.html](http://www.eia.doe.gov/fuelrenewable.html)

### Did you know?

- Ten weeks of solar energy is equal to the energy stored in all known reserves of coal, oil and natural gas on Earth.
- Solar energy is absorbed at the Earth's surface at 10,000 times the total global energy demand.

## LANDFILL GAS

Adams Electric is working with Cumberland County Landfill to help the facility make use of waste methane gas by converting it to electricity. The large stack shown here currently vents and burns off methane.



Landfill gas is created when solid waste decomposes. Half of the landfill gas consists of 50 percent methane and 50 percent carbon dioxide. Instead of allowing the pollutants to enter the air, they can be captured, converted and used as an energy source.

Learn more at [www.epa.gov/lmop/](http://www.epa.gov/lmop/)

## BIOMASS

Biomass is organic matter, such as plant material and animal waste. The energy from biomass comes from chemical bonds formed through photosynthesis in living or once-living matter. Advocates for biomass point out that harvests are replanted. Biofuels do not contribute any net carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere.

Learn more at [www1.eere.energy.gov/biomass/](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/biomass/)

