

Illinois Legislature Passes Bills To Encourage Solar Energy Use

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The Illinois General Assembly recently passed two bills, now awaiting signature by Governor Quinn, that encourage the use of solar energy in Illinois:

[HB6202](#) amends the Illinois Power Agency Act to provide annual targets to move towards the 6% solar requirement in the State's renewable portfolio standard, which was signed into law in 2007 and required that utilities in Illinois produce a certain percentage of their power from renewable sources, starting with 2% in 2008 and increasing to 25% by 2025. Prior to HB6202, the 6% solar requirement came into effect in 2015. The new law will require that utilities begin meeting their solar goals on an earlier schedule: 0.5% by June 1, 2012; 1.5% by June 1, 2013; 3% by June 1, 2014; and 6% by June 1, 2015 and thereafter.

[HB5429](#) creates the Homeowners' Solar Rights Act, which prohibits adoption of a bylaw or exercise of any power by a homeowners' association, common interest community association, or condominium unit owners' association that prohibits or has the effect of prohibiting the installation of a solar energy system. A "solar energy system" is defined as "(1) a complete assembly, structure, or design of solar collector, or a solar storage mechanism, which uses solar energy for generating electricity or for heating or cooling gases, solids, liquids, or other materials; and (2) the design, materials, or elements of a system and its maintenance, operation, and labor components, and the necessary components, if any, of supplemental conventional energy systems designed or constructed to interface with a solar energy system."

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