



States of Progress:

Existing Commitments to
Clean Energy Put Most States
on Track to Meet Clean Power
Plan's 2020 Benchmarks

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Union of
Concerned Scientists

Key Takeaways

- The EPA's proposed Clean Power Plan (CPP) and its timeline and trajectory for emission cuts are achievable
- 31 states are already more than halfway toward meeting their 2020 benchmarks thanks to existing commitments to clean energy
- 14 states are already on track to surpass their 2020 CPP benchmarks, including the 9 RGGI states collectively, 3 states suing the EPA over the CPP, and 2 of the nation's most coal-dependent states
- By prioritizing renewable energy and energy efficiency, and collaborating with their neighbors, states can reliably and cost-effectively meet their emissions reduction goals



Photo: Wayne National Forest

UCS Analysis of State Progress Toward Clean Power Plan's (CPP) 2020 Benchmarks

- Examines actions states have taken place or will take place between 2012 and 2020 to cut emissions:
 - Retiring coal plants*
 - Deploying additional renewable energy to meet mandatory state renewable electricity standards (RES)
 - Ramping up energy efficiency to meet mandatory state energy efficiency resource standards (EERS)
 - Multi-state efforts to collectively cap power plant carbon emissions
 - Bring online under construction nuclear and natural gas power plants
- Assesses how far existing commitments take states toward achieving EPA's proposed 2020 emission reduction benchmarks**

*We conservatively assume retired coal generation is replaced with natural gas; if replaced with renewables, efficiency or other zero carbon generation, states would be even further along in meeting 2020 benchmarks.

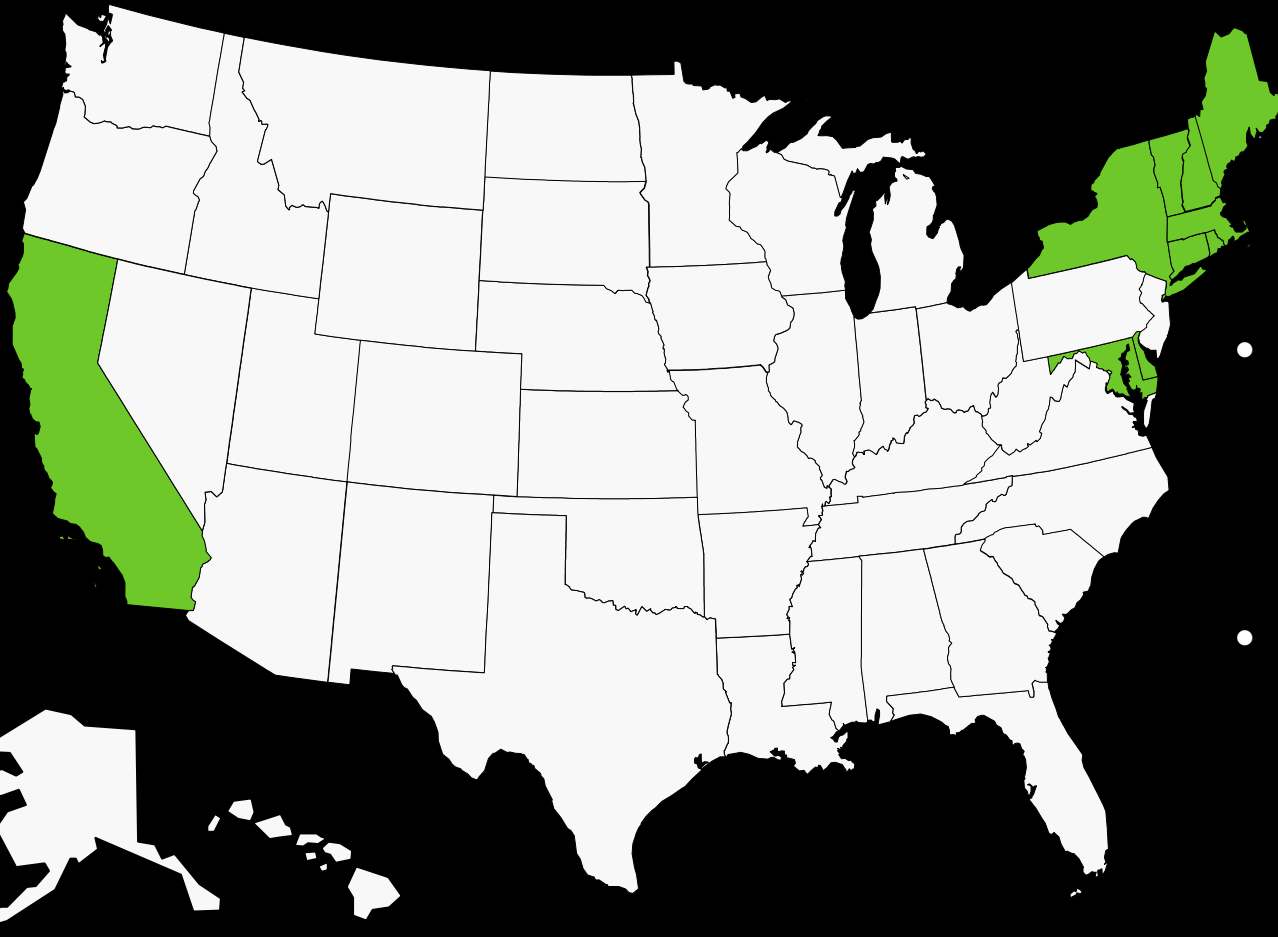
**While the 2020 emissions reduction target is not a requirement for states, it is a helpful benchmark against which to measure a state's progress toward meeting the CPP's interim and final targets.



State-level Carbon Cutting Commitments

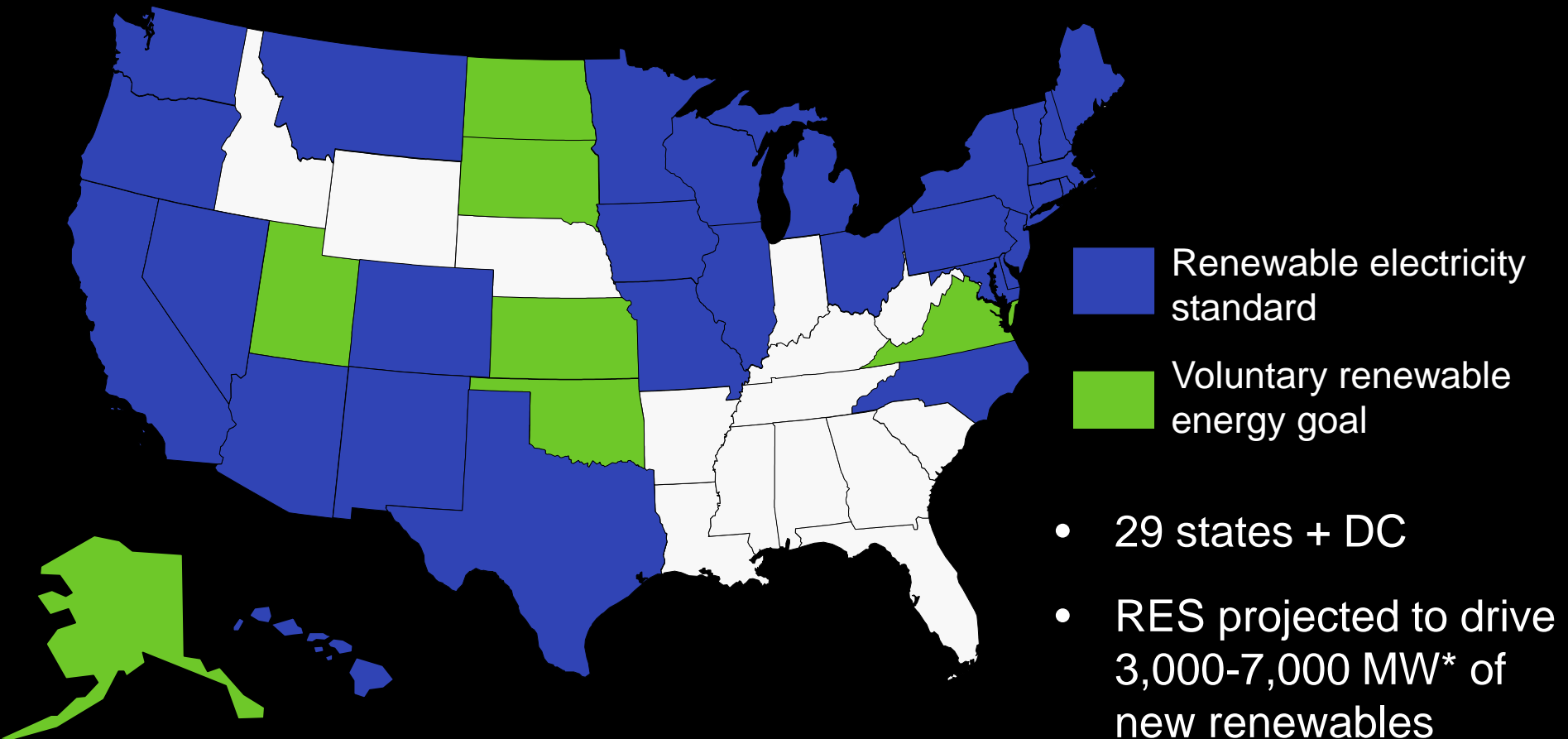


States with Power Plant Carbon Cap Programs



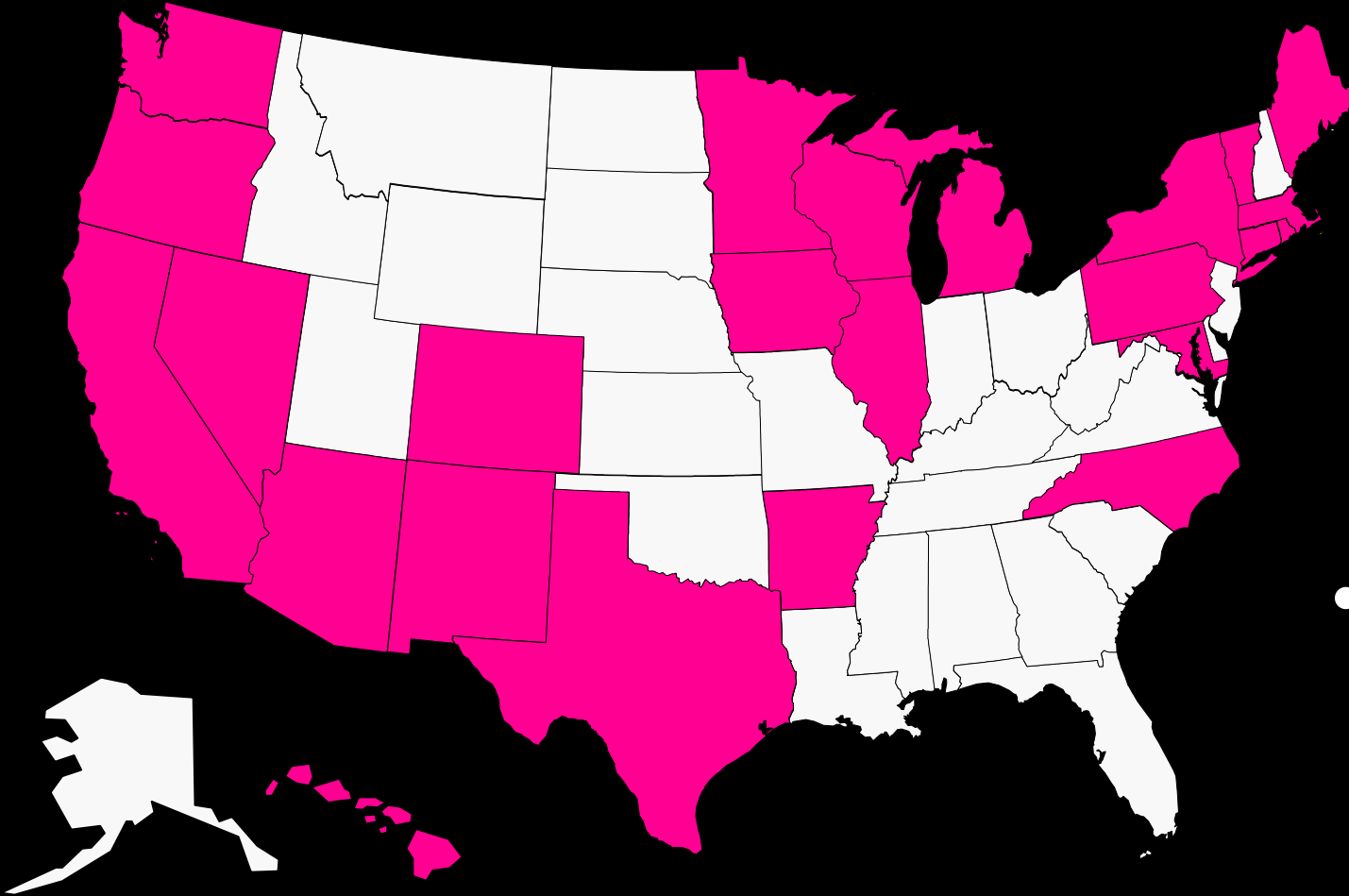
- 9 states collaborating under Northeast Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)
- California: Cut global warming pollution economy-wide to 1990 levels by 2020

States with Renewable Electricity Standards



*Depending on availability of existing renewable energy capacity.

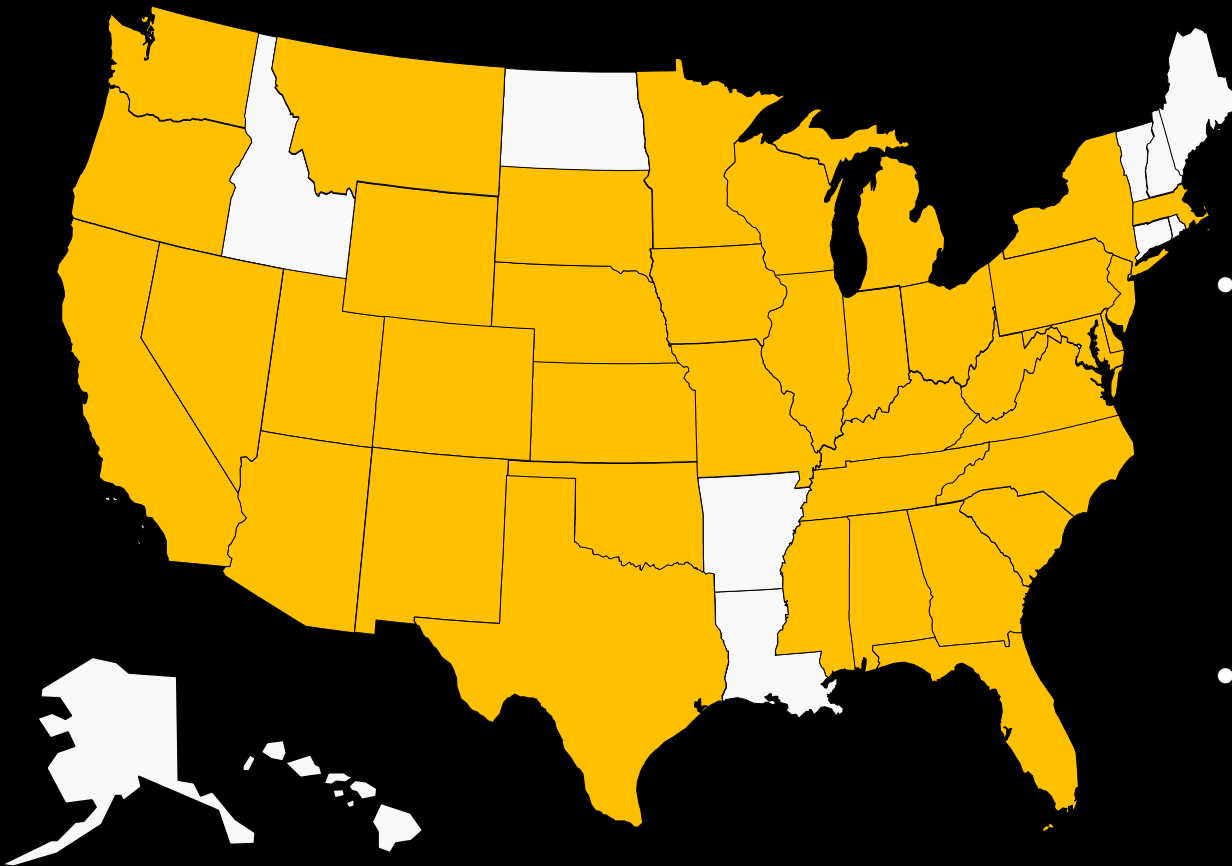
States with Energy Efficiency Resource Standards



- 24 states

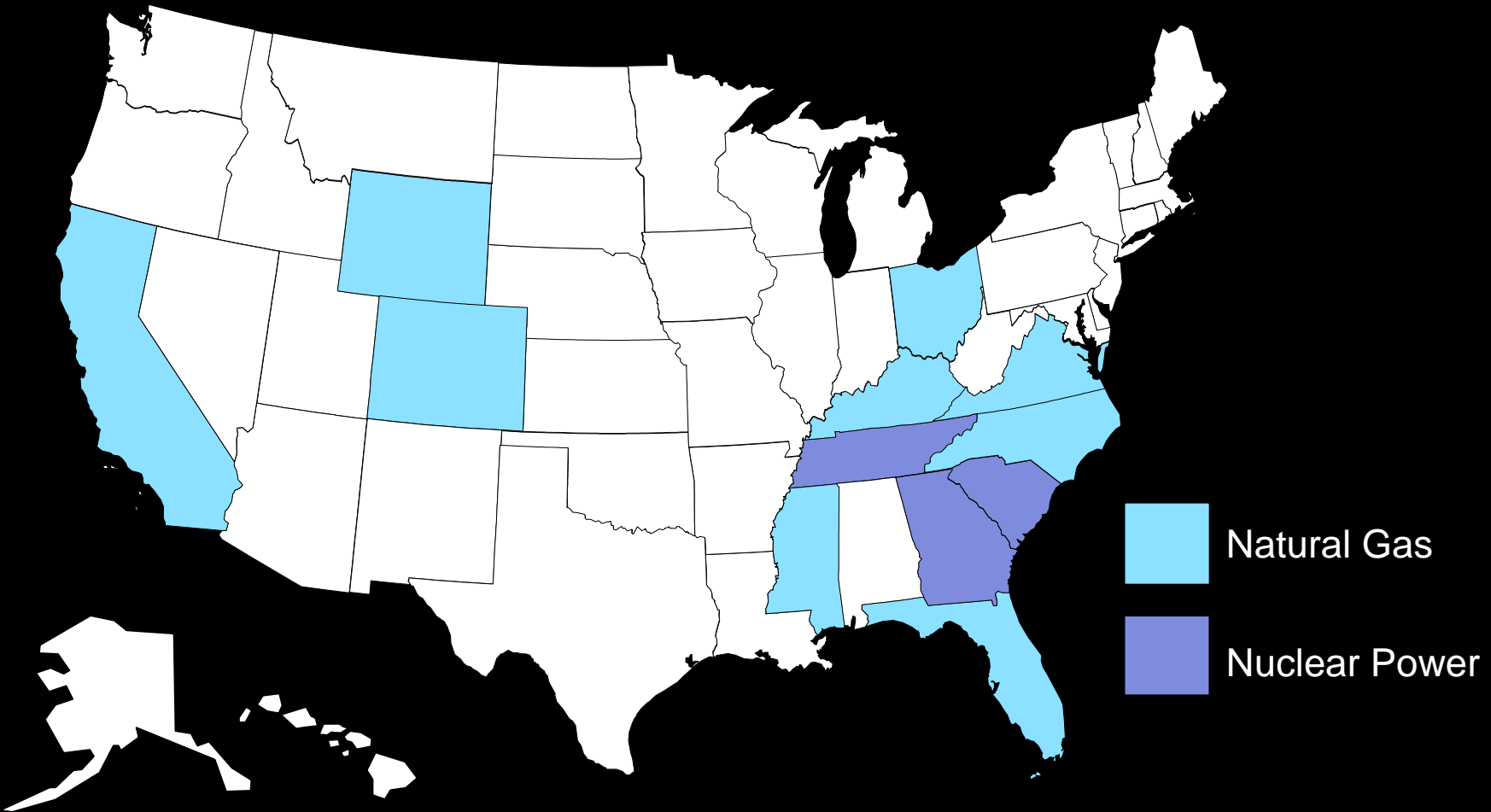
Note that Florida, Indiana, and Ohio repealed their EERS policies within the last year. The impact of the repeals is included in our analysis, but these states still see small improvements from previously implemented efficiency measures.

States with Coal Generator Retirements (2012-2020)



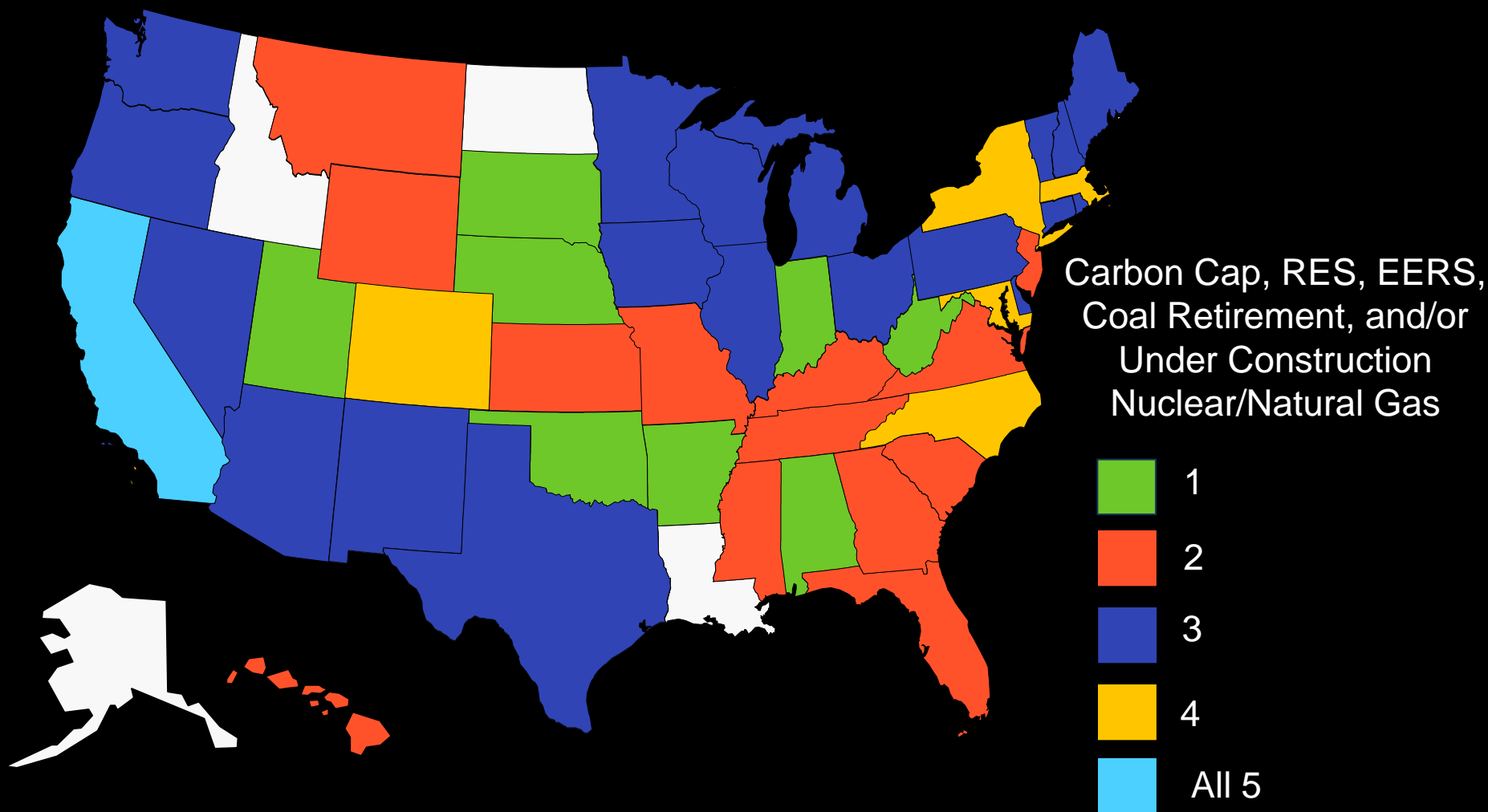
- At least 295 coal generating units in 39 states have either retired since 2012 or are scheduled to close through 2020
- Represents more than 46,600 MW of coal power capacity, equivalent to 10.4% of total U.S. coal generation in 2012

States with Under Construction* Nuclear and Natural Gas Power Plants



*As included in the proposed Clean Power Plan's state emission reduction targets.

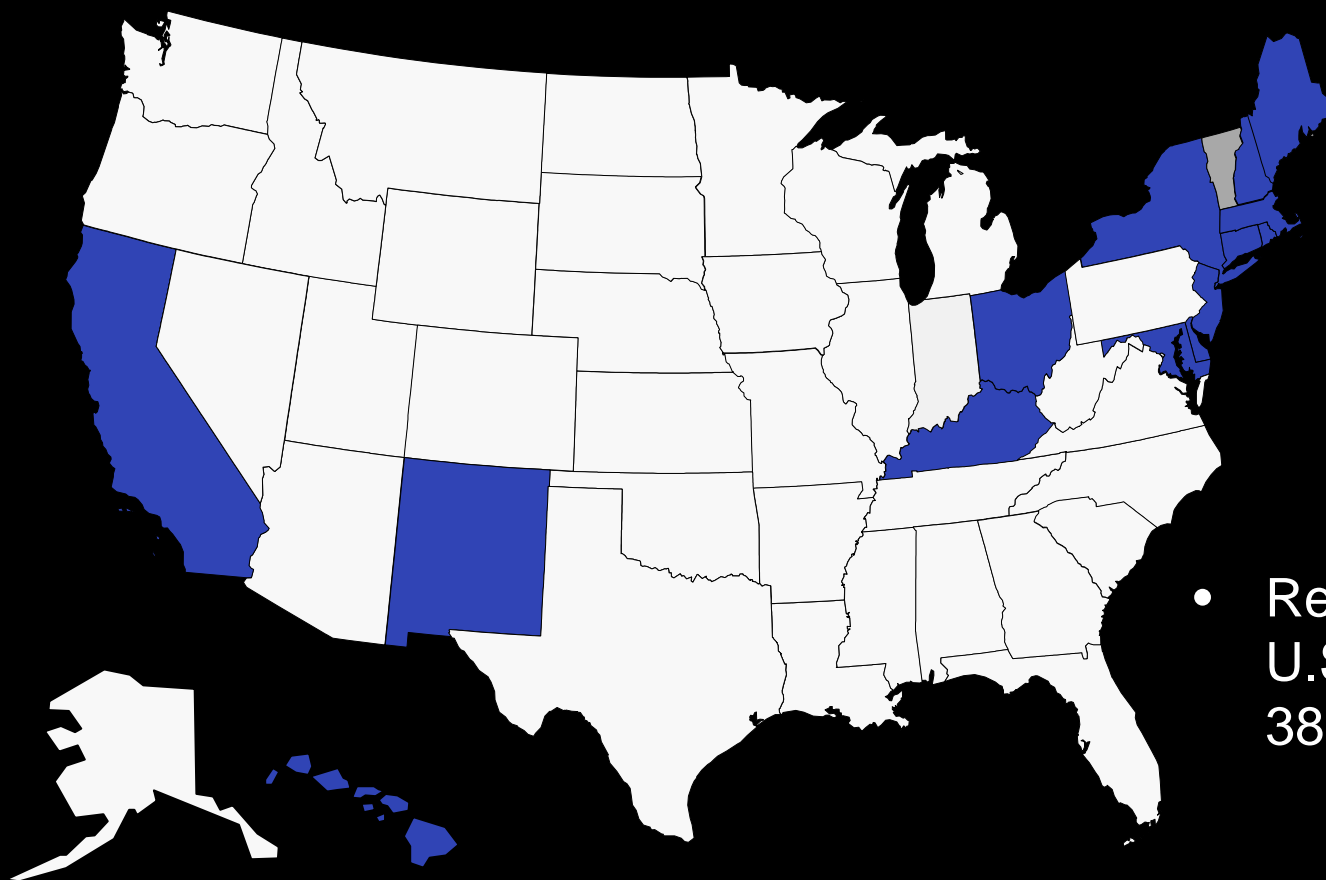
Number of Existing Policies and Decisions to Reduce Power Plant Carbon Emissions



[National Results

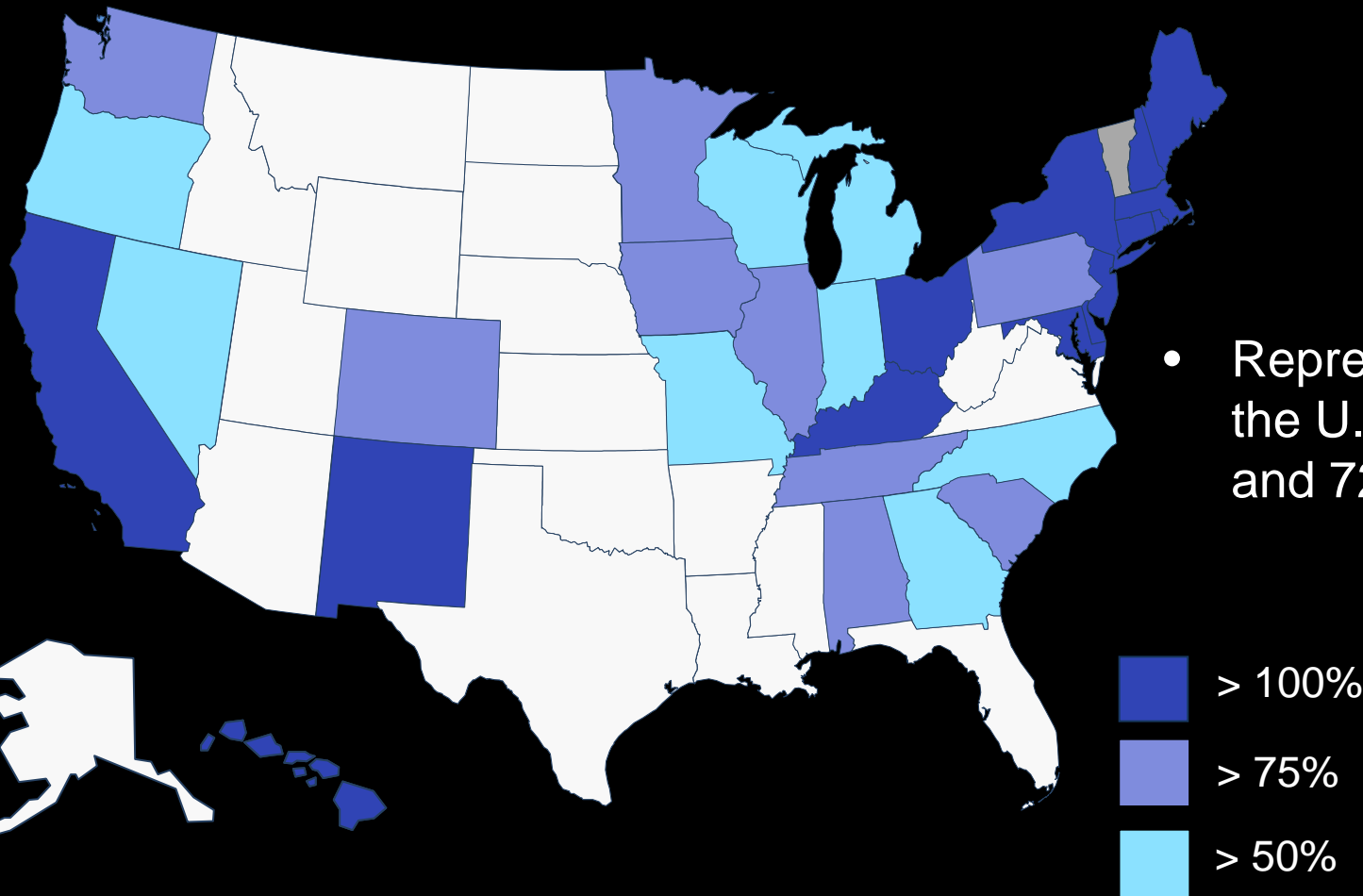


14 States are Already on Track to Surpass Their 2020 Clean Power Plan Benchmarks



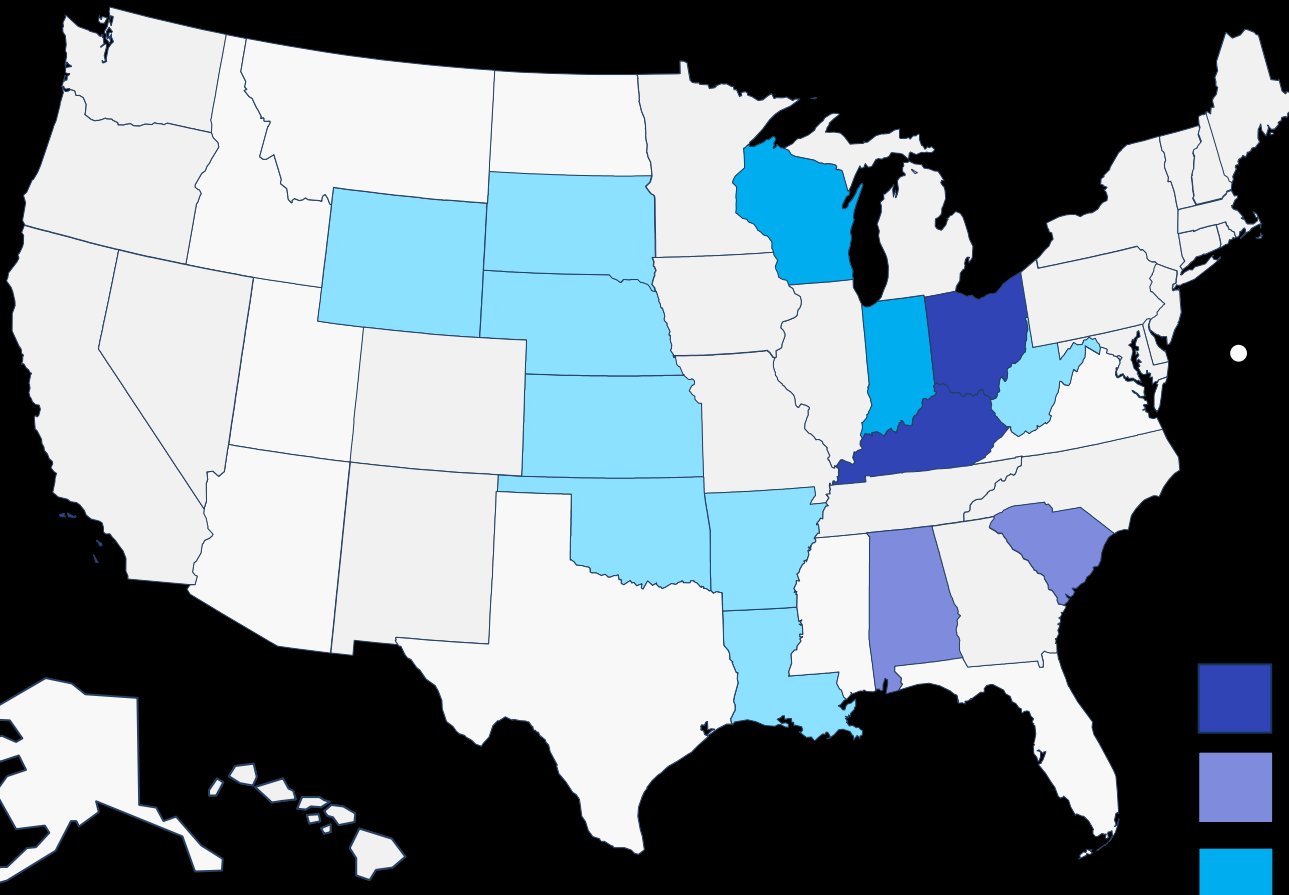
- Represents 34% of the U.S. population and 38% of U.S. GDP

31 States Will Be More Than Halfway Toward Meeting Their 2020 Benchmarks

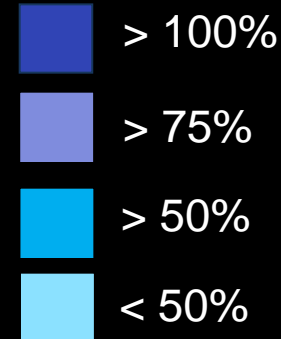


- Represents 71% of the U.S. population and 72% of U.S. GDP

Even States that are Suing the EPA are Making Progress Toward Their 2020 Benchmarks



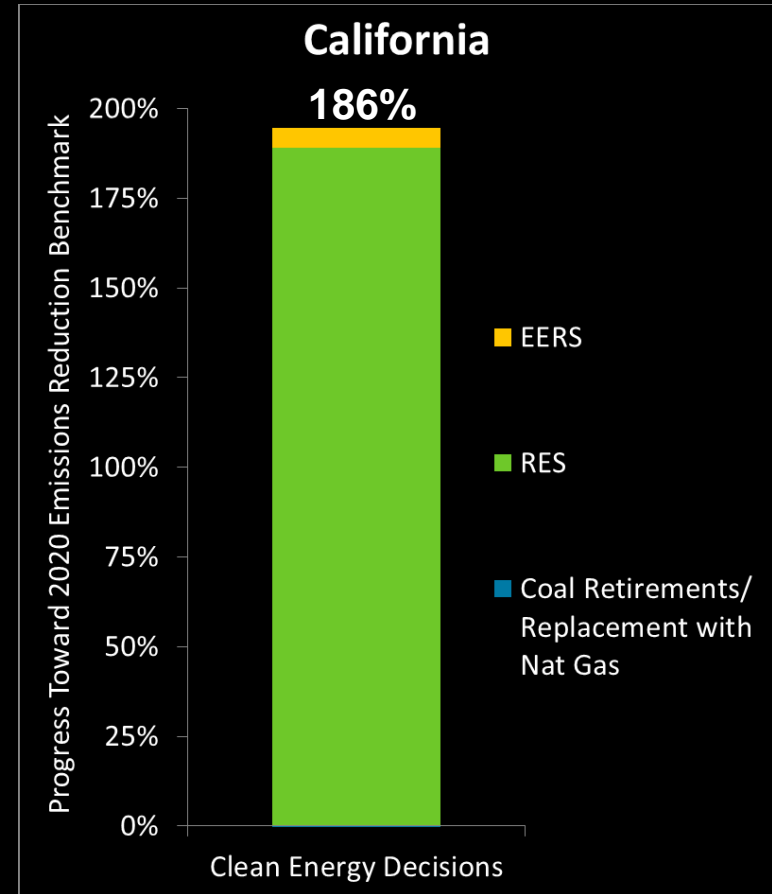
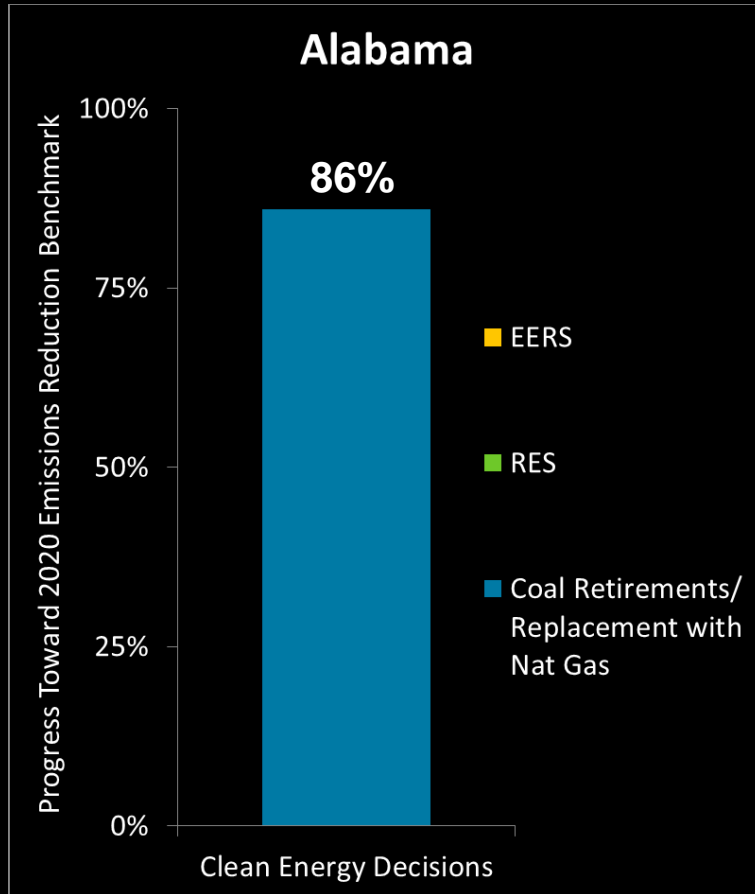
- Collectively will be more than 40% of the way toward their 2020 benchmarks



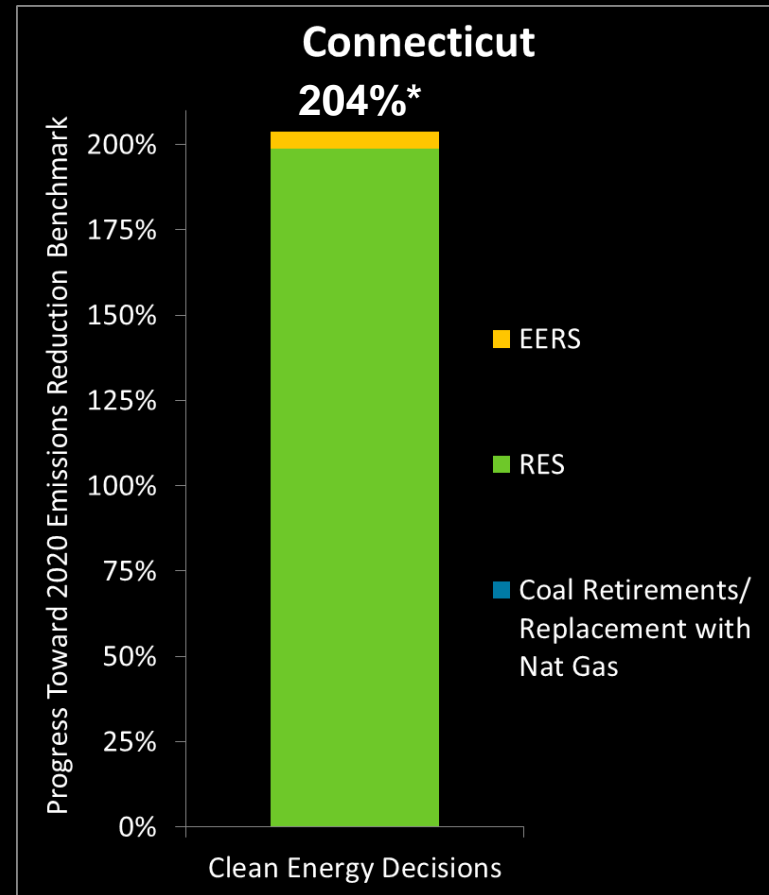
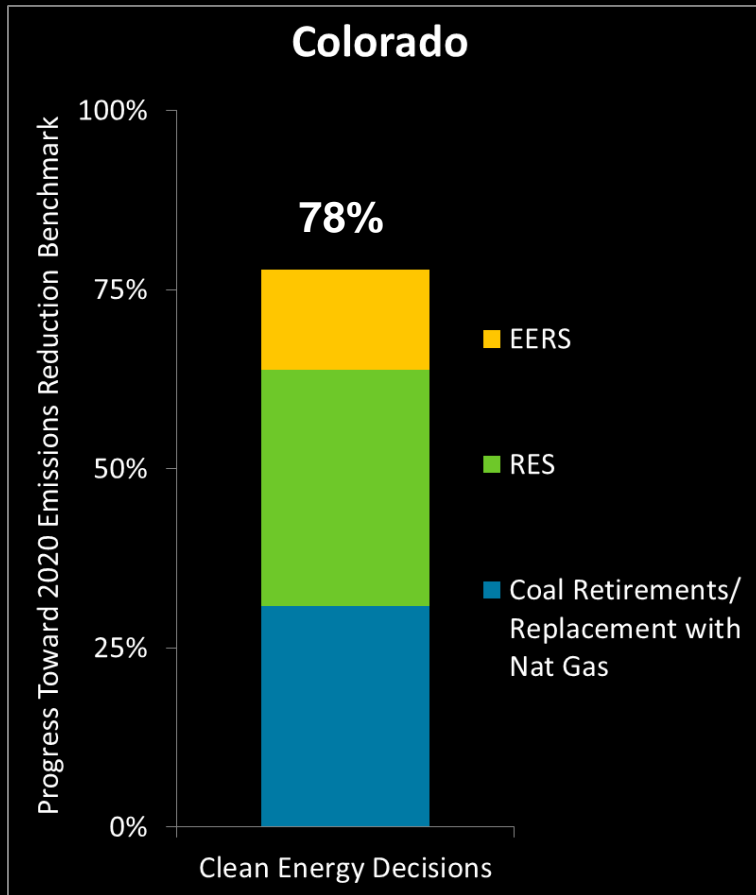
[State Results



Projected State Progress Toward Meeting Their 2020 Benchmarks

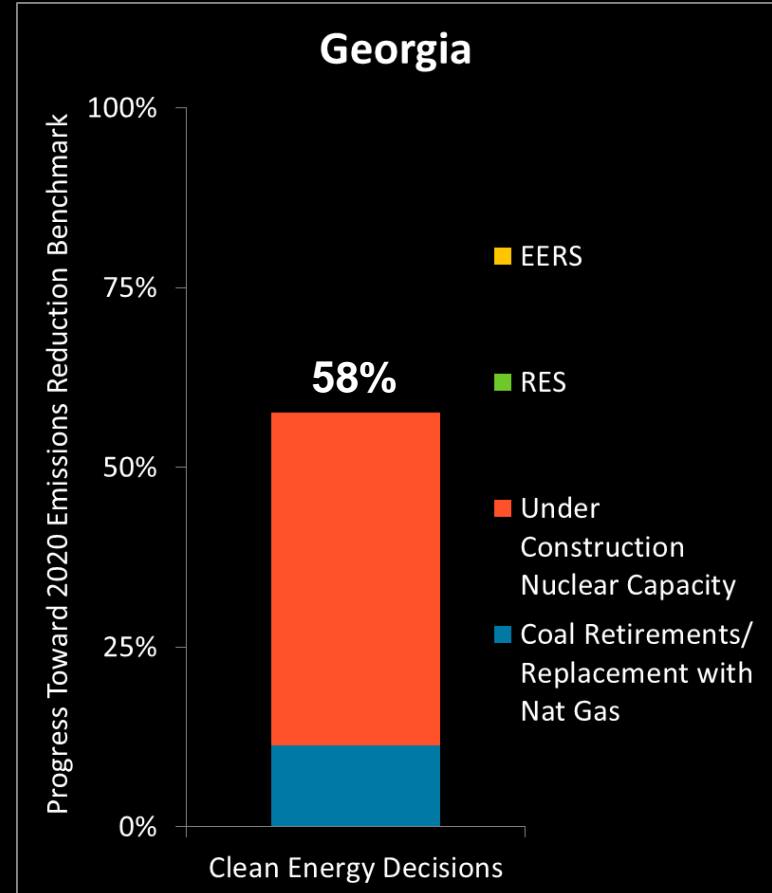
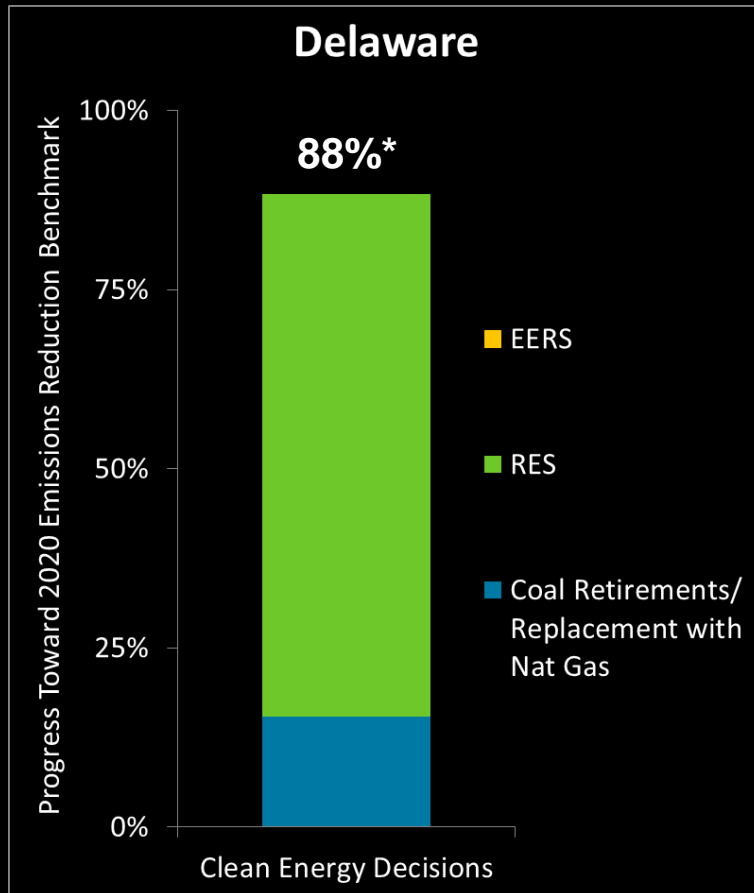


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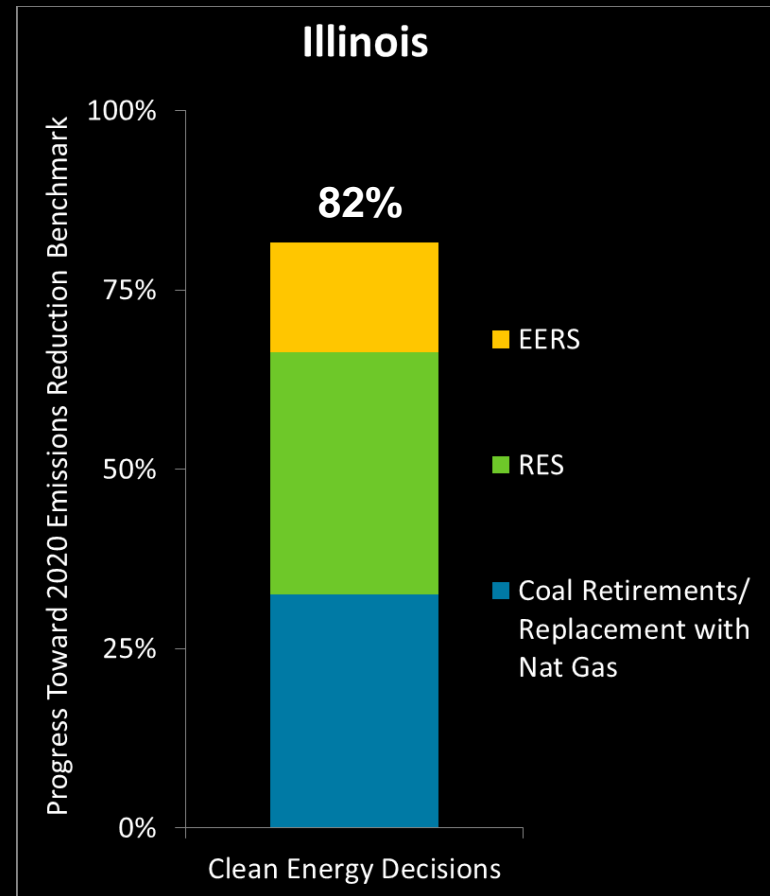
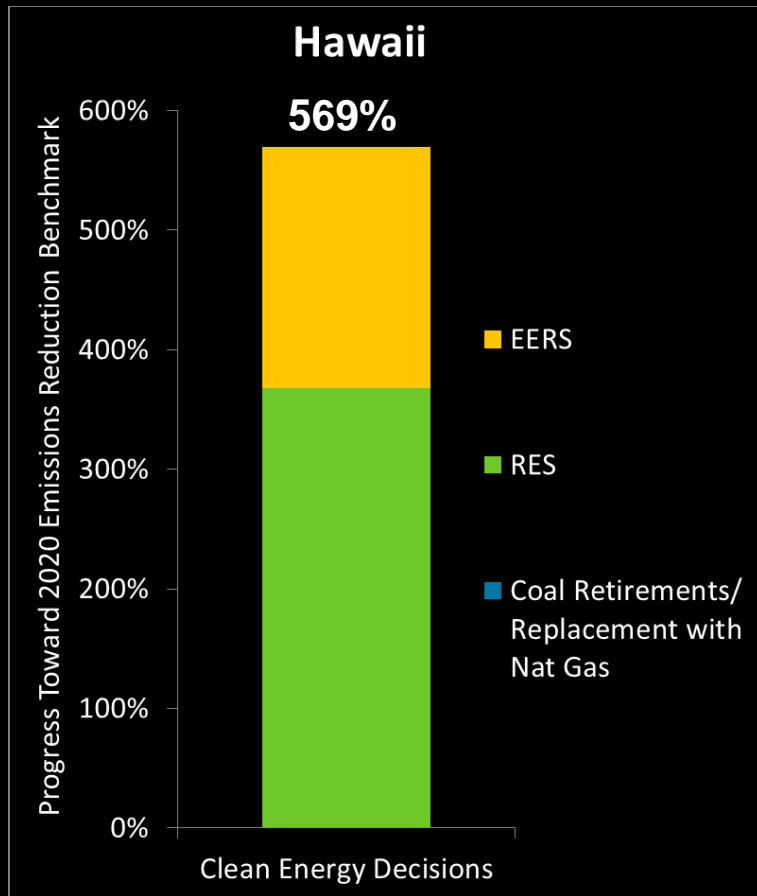
*The nine states participating in the Northeast Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, including Connecticut, are collectively projected to be more than 150% of the way toward their combined 2020 emission reduction benchmarks under the CPP.

Projected State Progress Toward Meeting Their 2020 Benchmarks

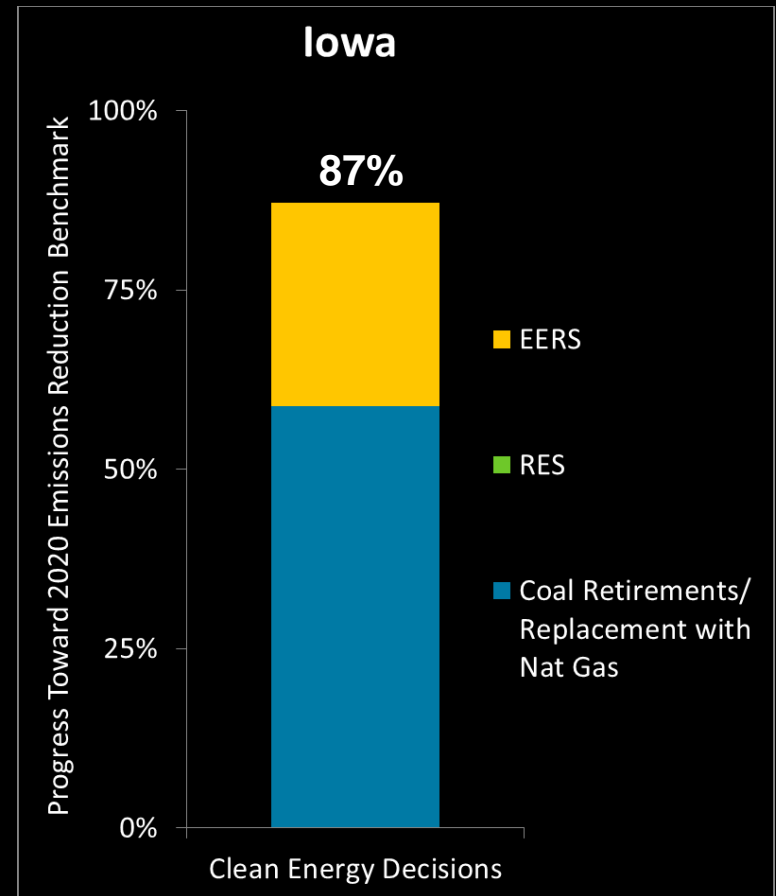
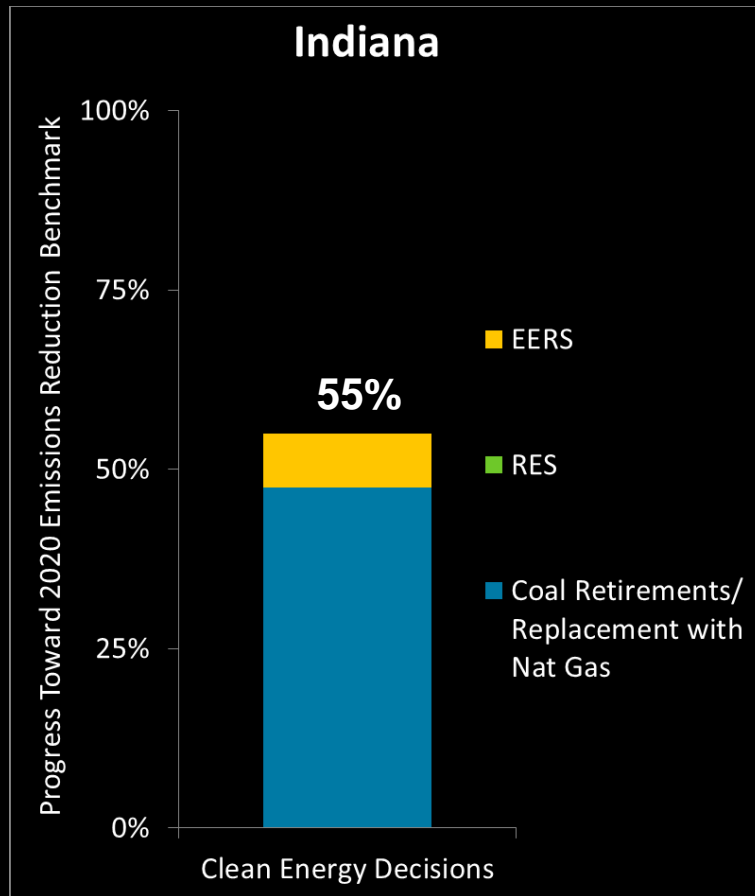


*The nine states participating in the Northeast Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, including Delaware, are collectively projected to be more than 150% of the way toward their combined 2020 emission reduction benchmarks under the CPP.

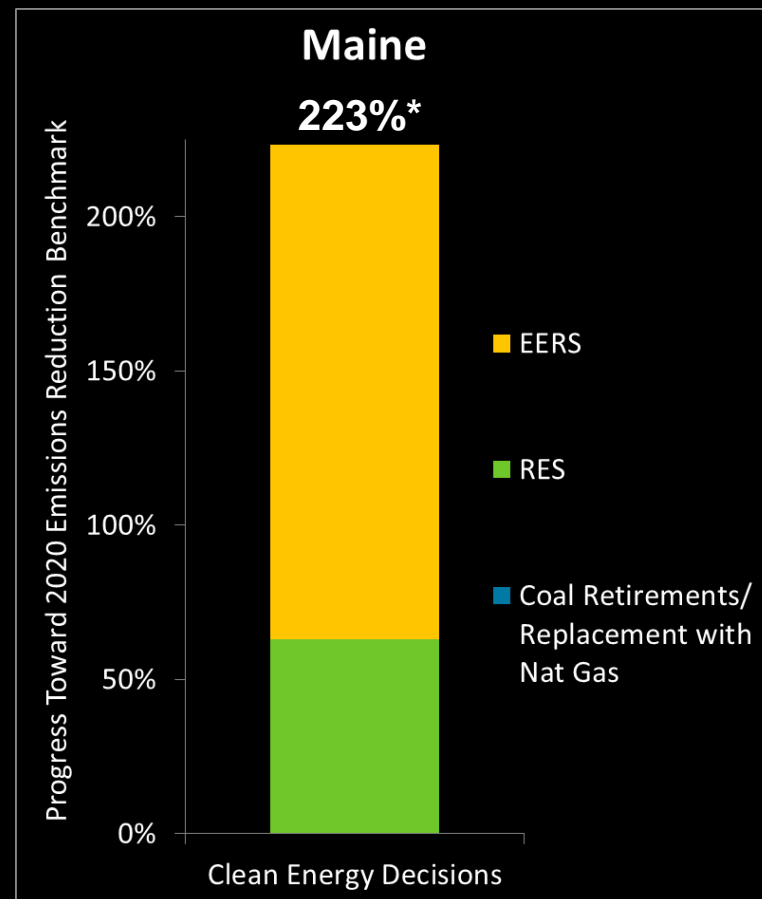
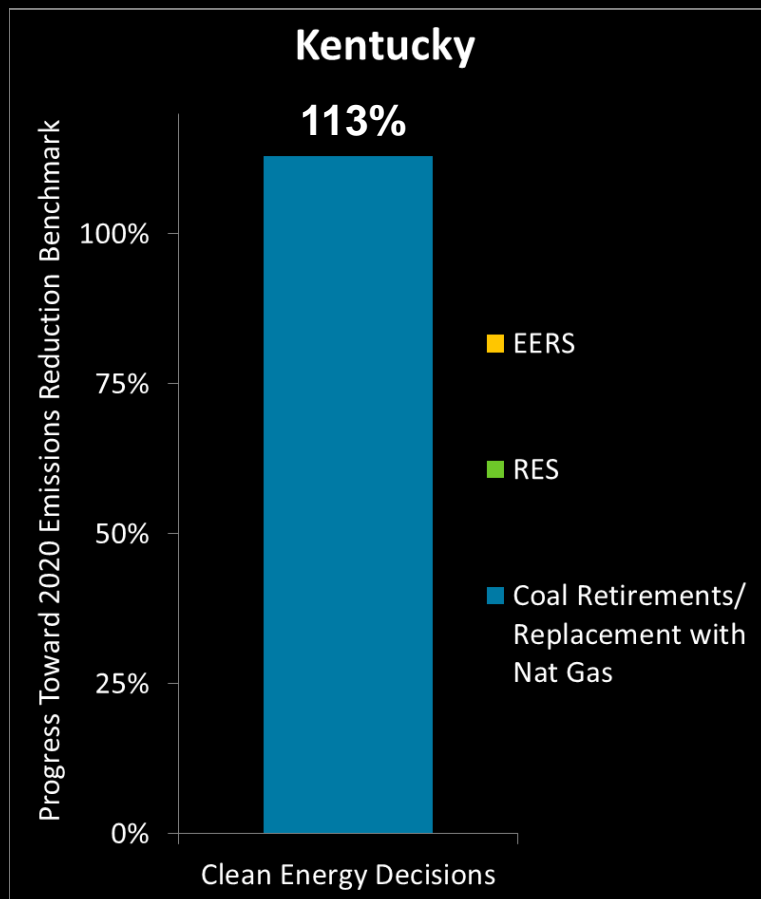
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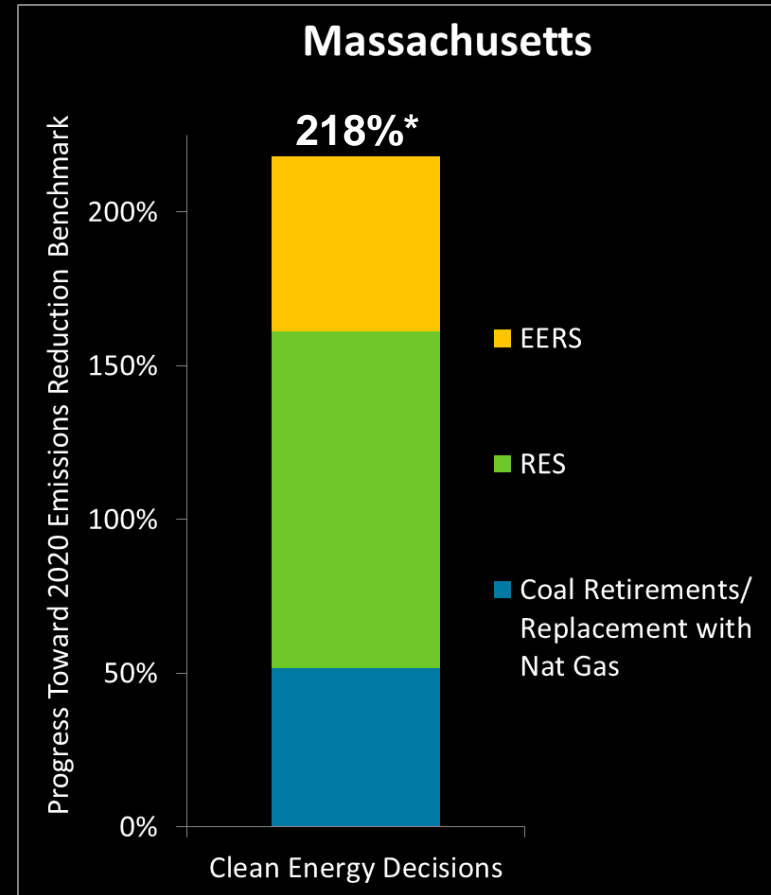
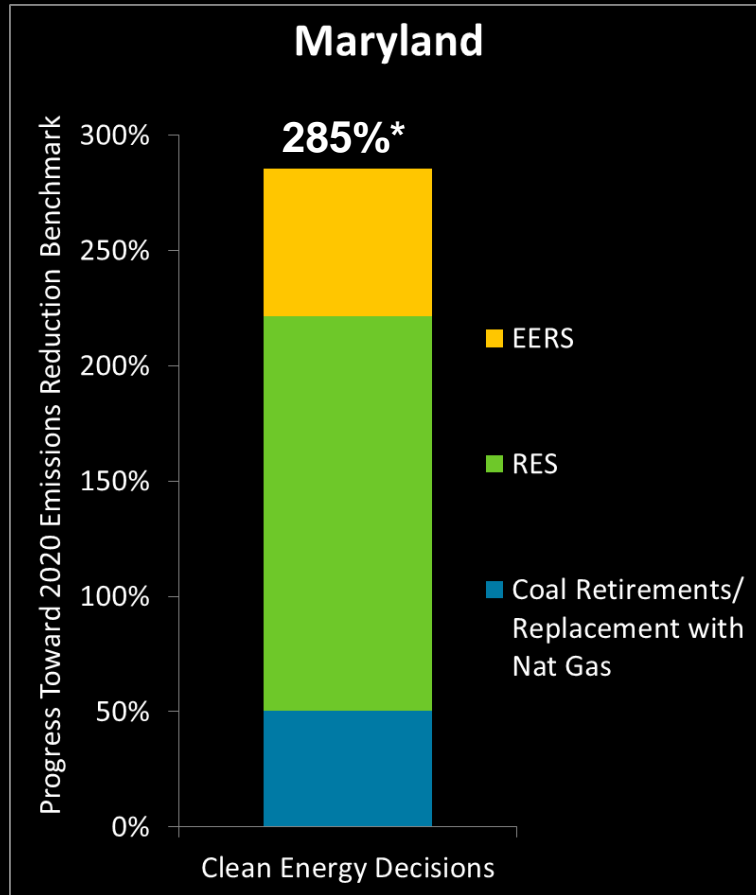


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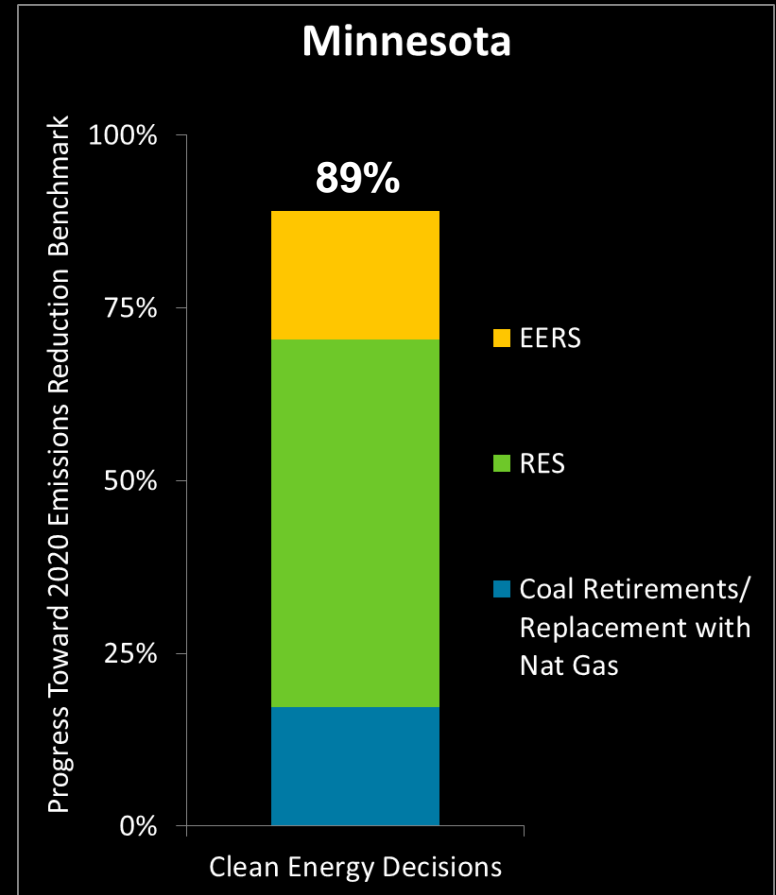
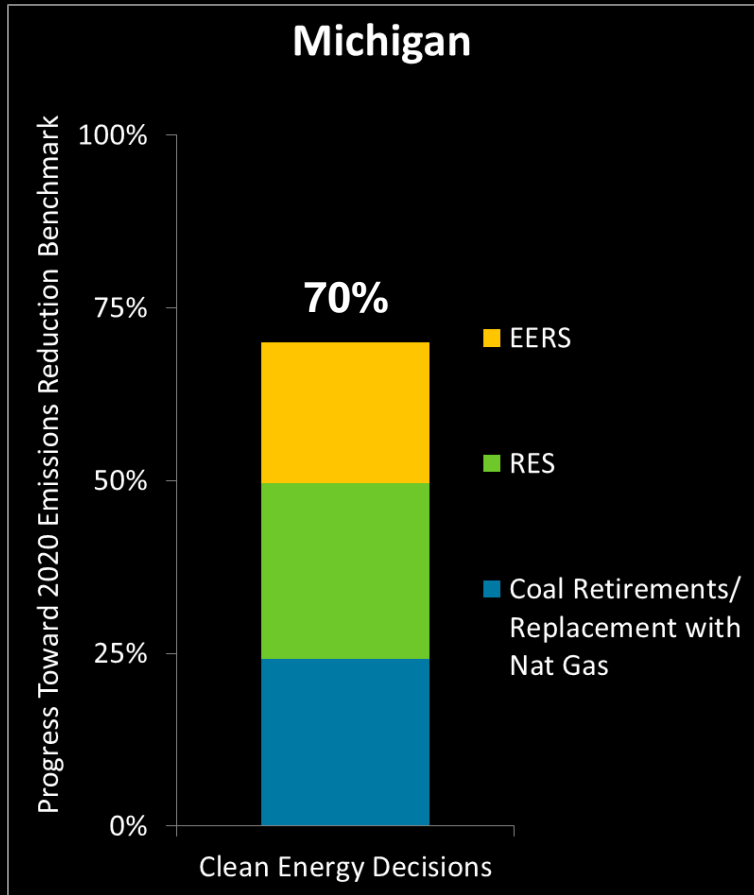
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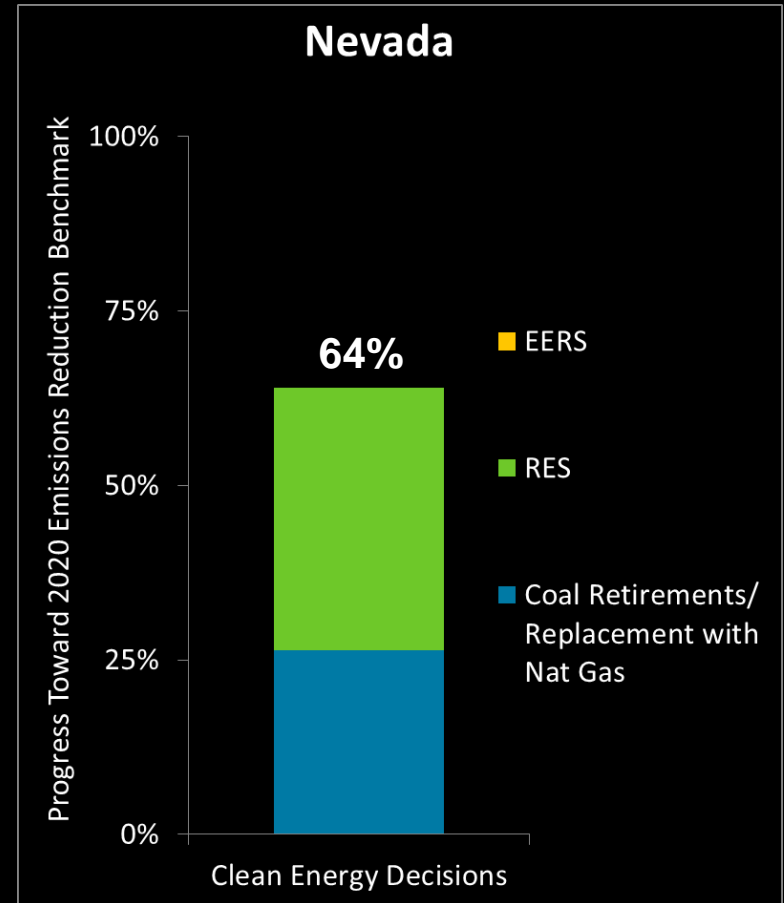
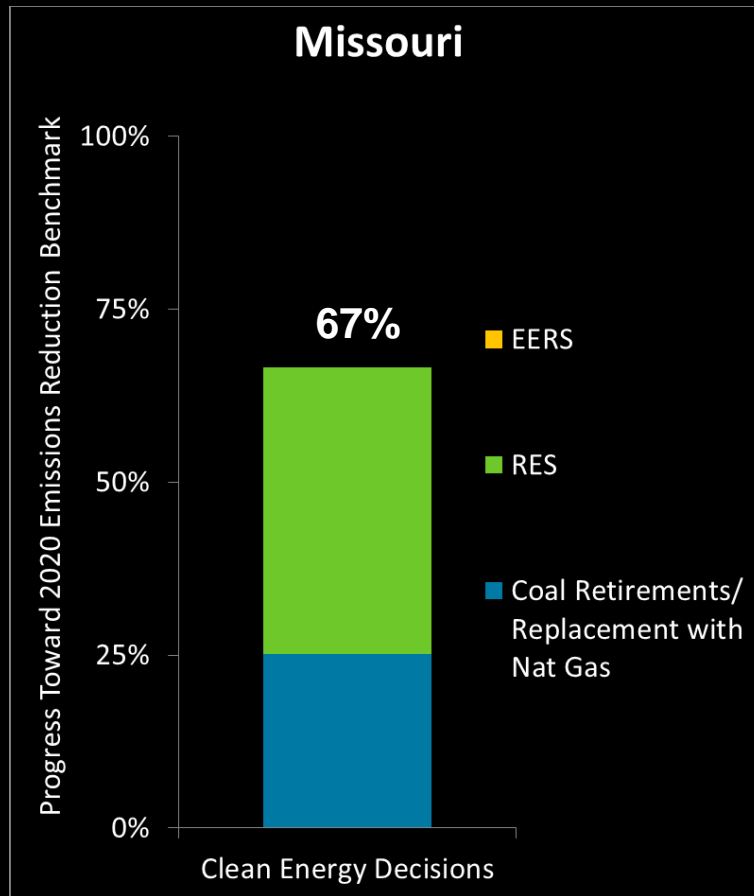


*The nine states participating in the Northeast Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, including Maryland and Massachusetts, are collectively projected to be more than 150% of the way toward their combined 2020 emission reduction benchmarks under the CPP.

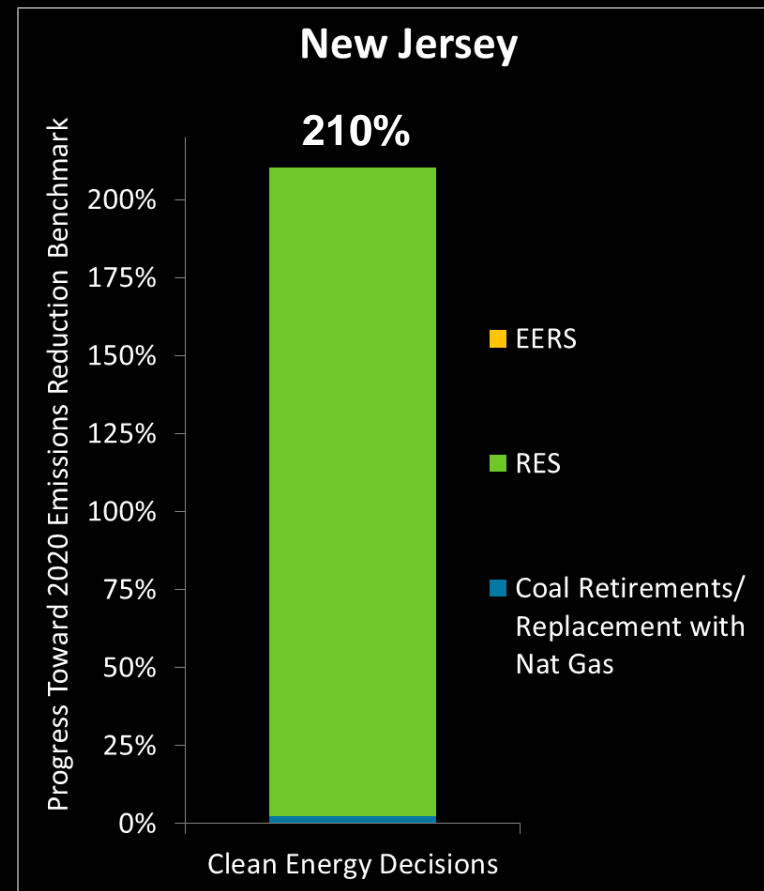
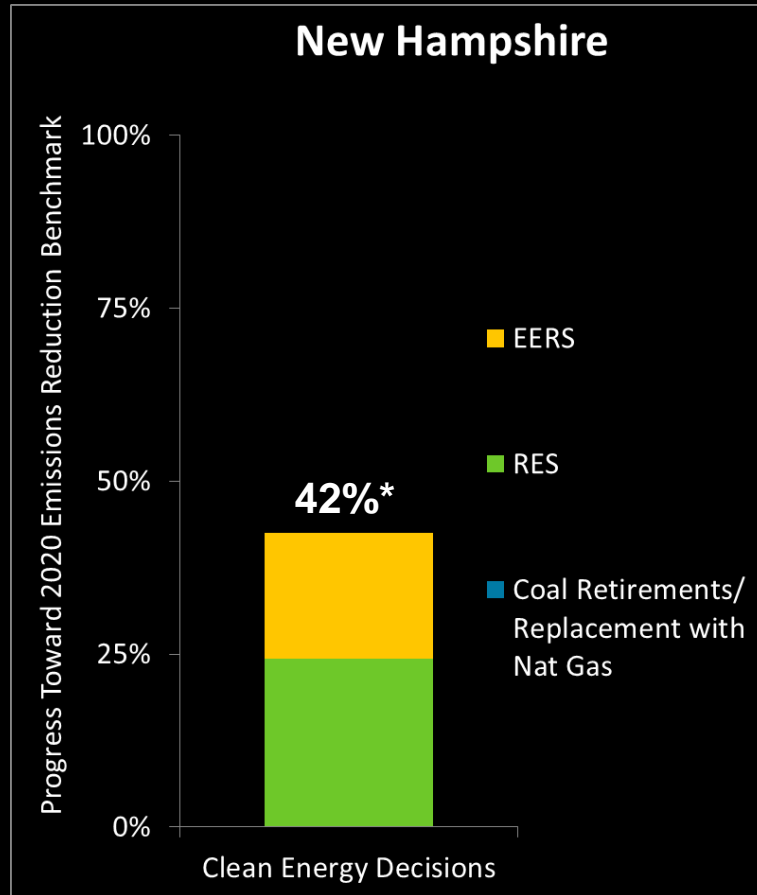
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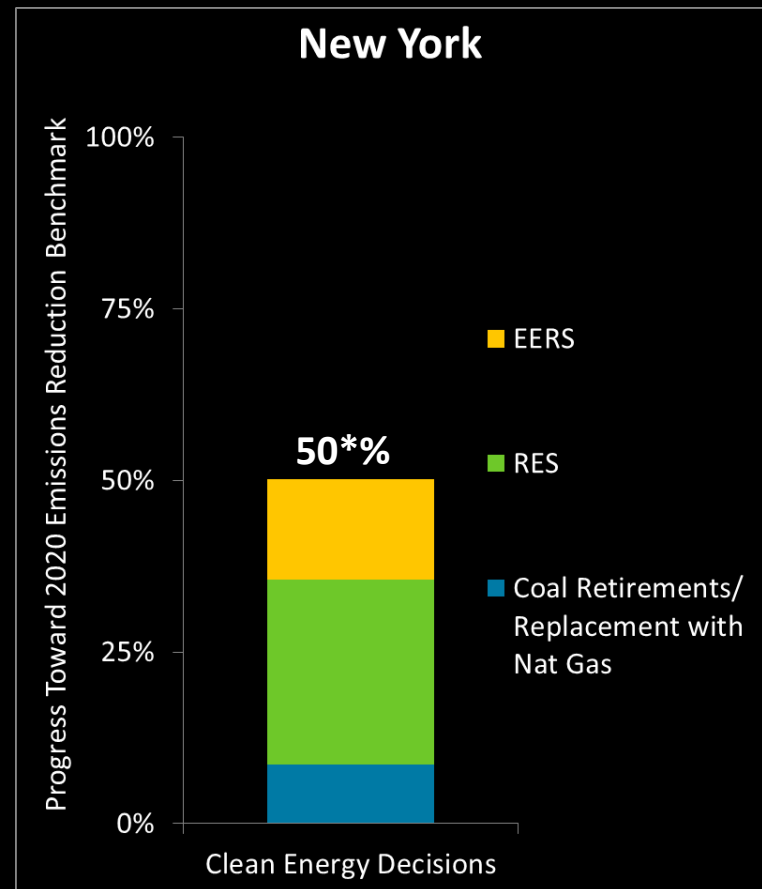
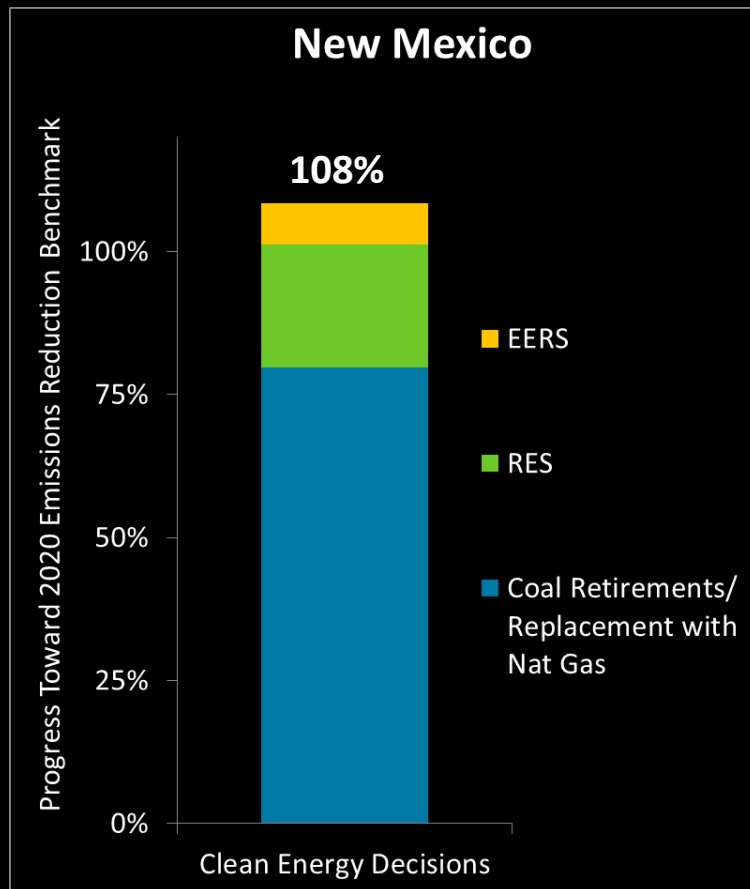


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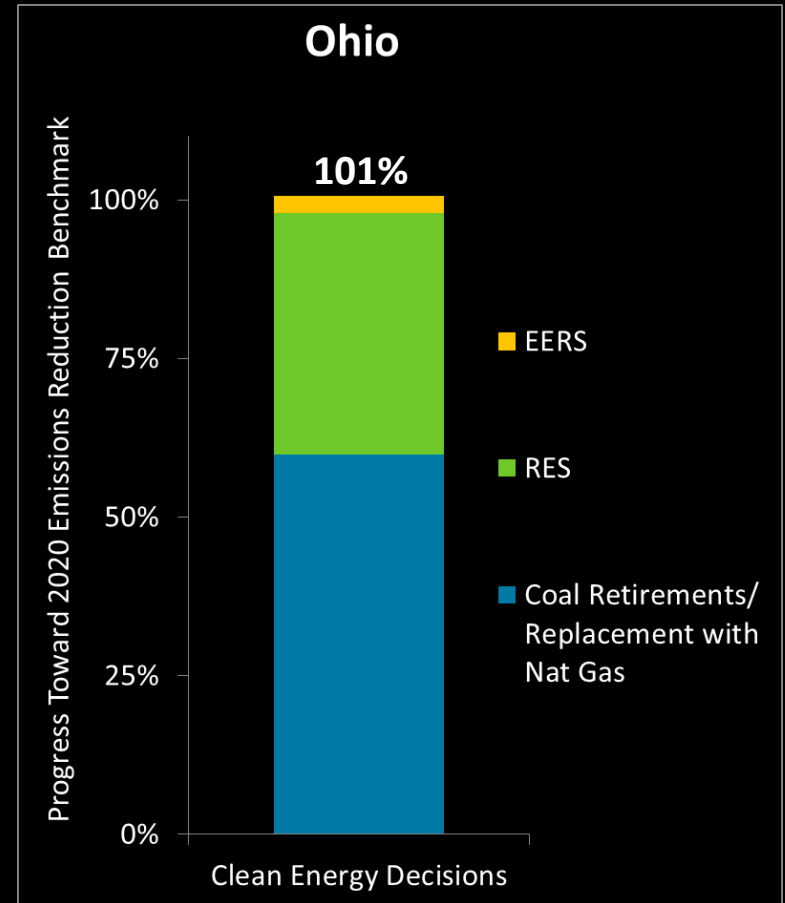
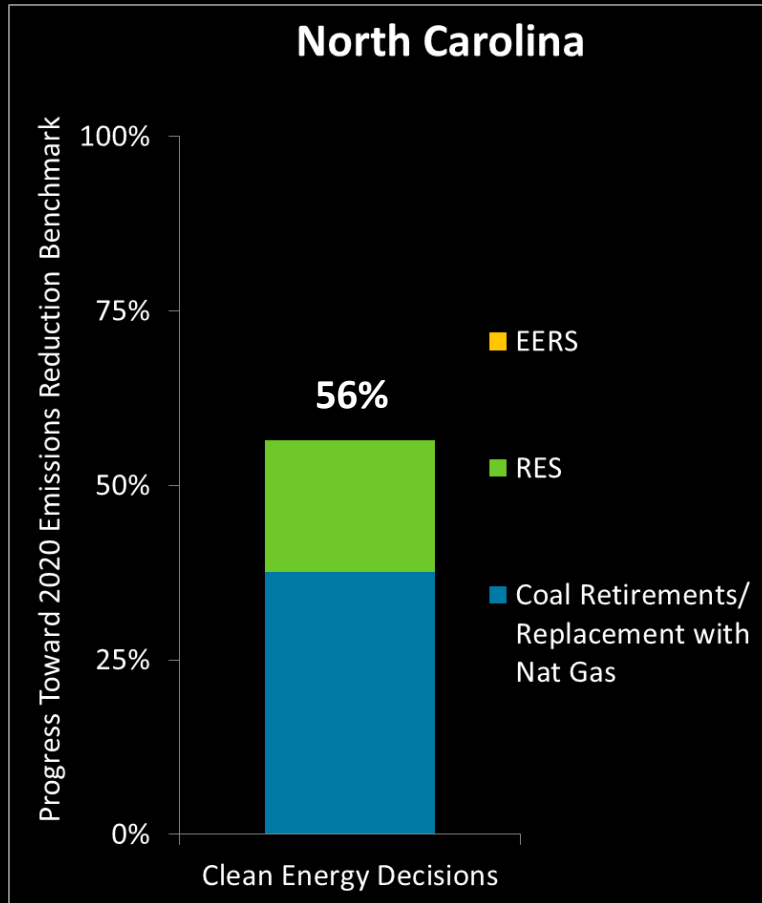
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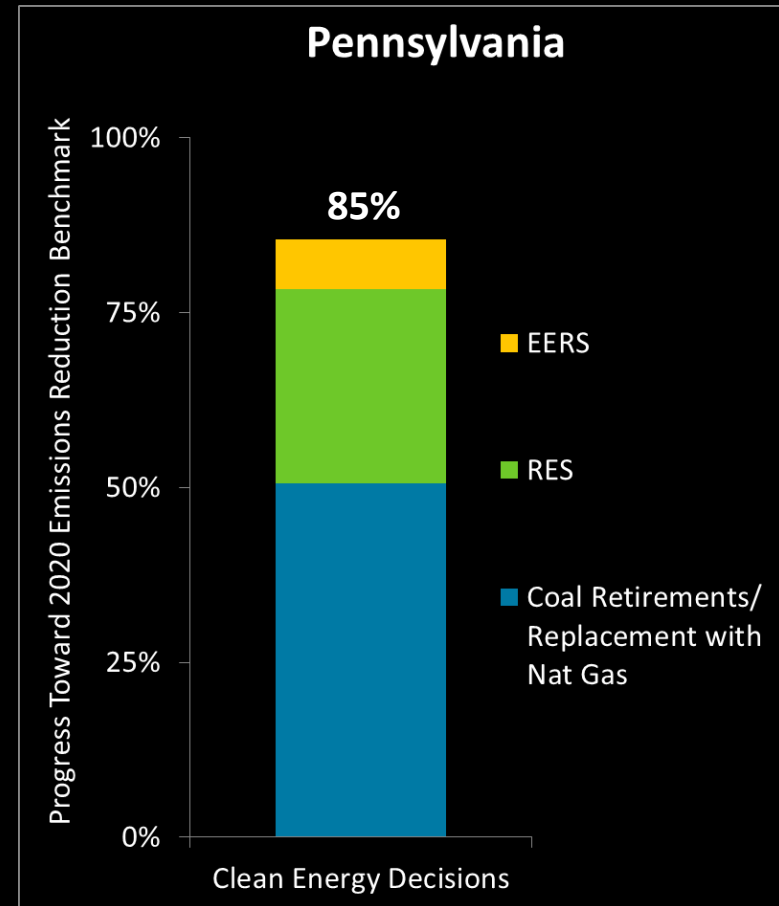
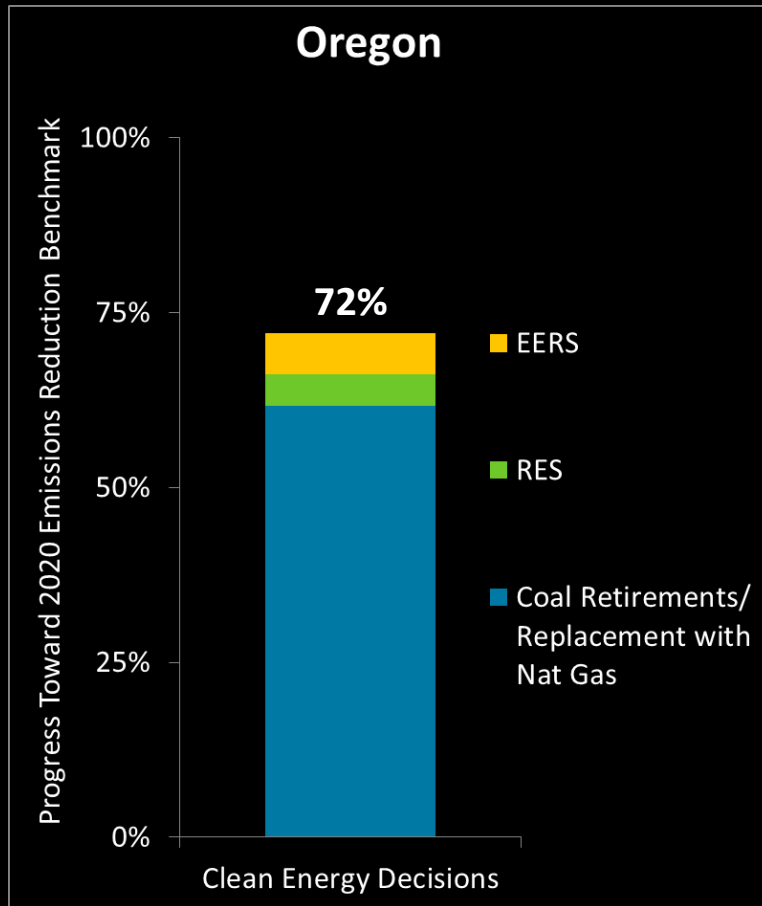


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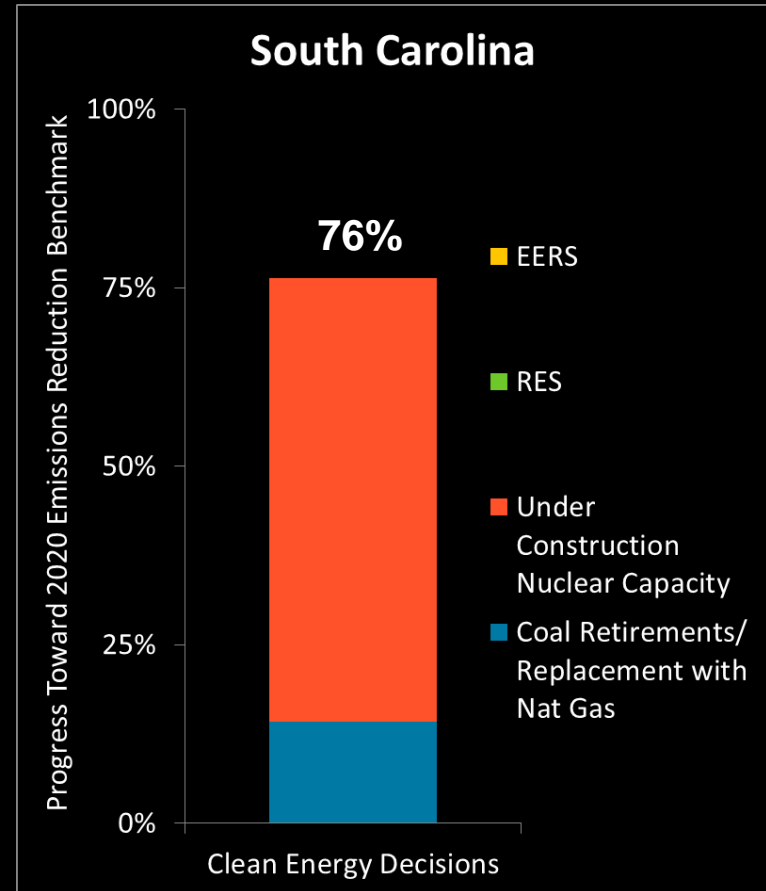
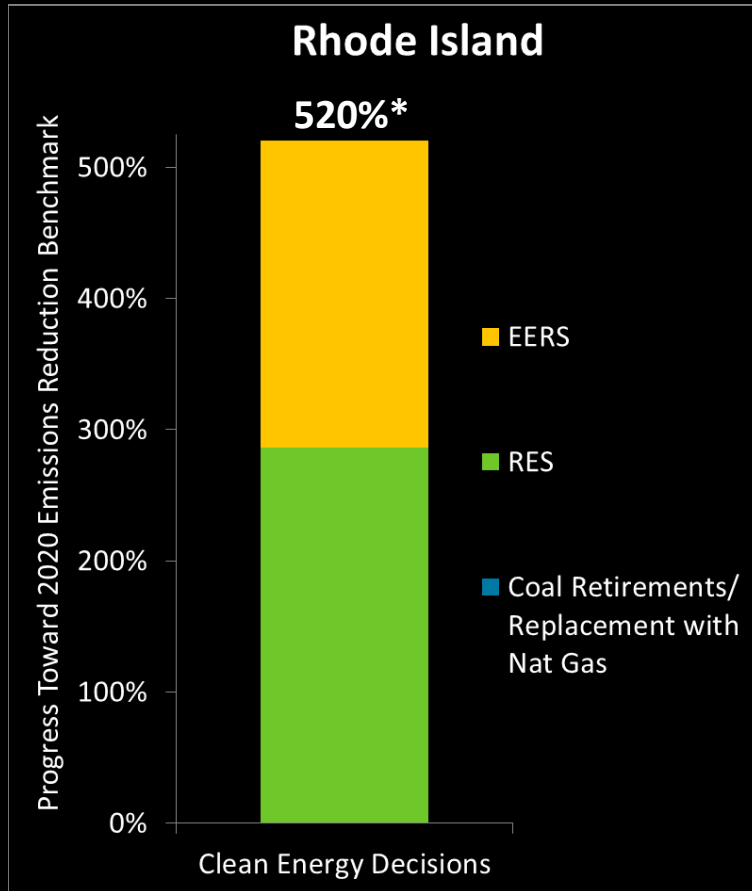
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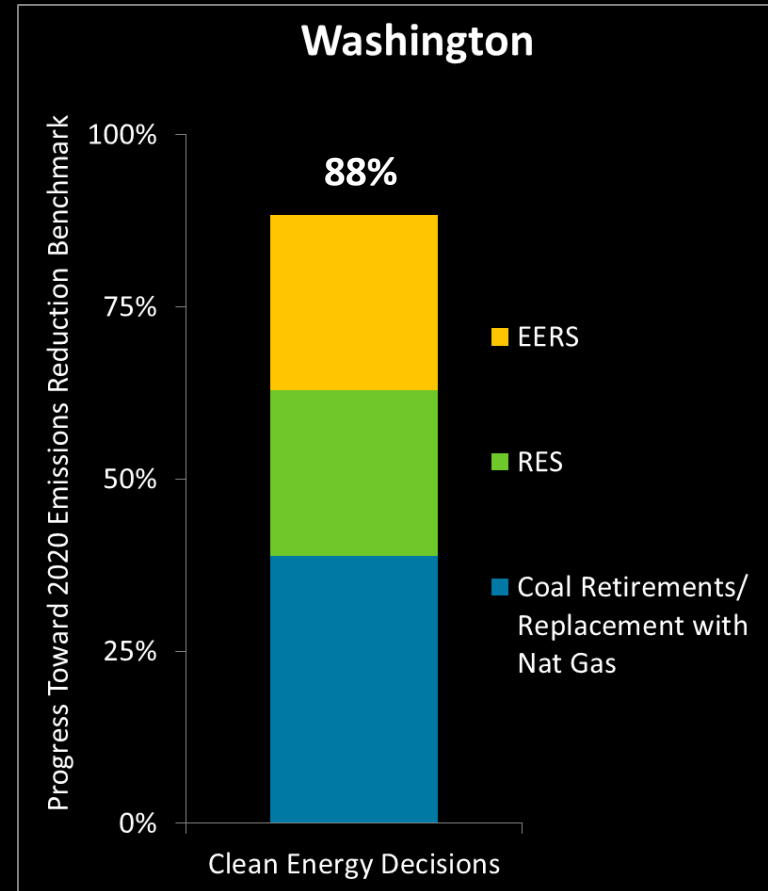
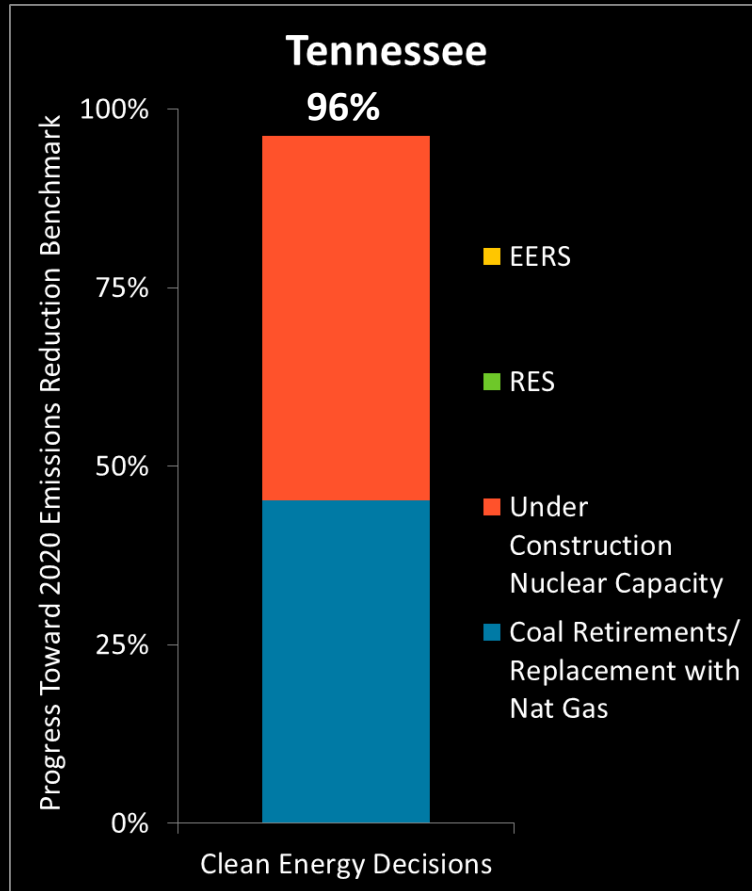


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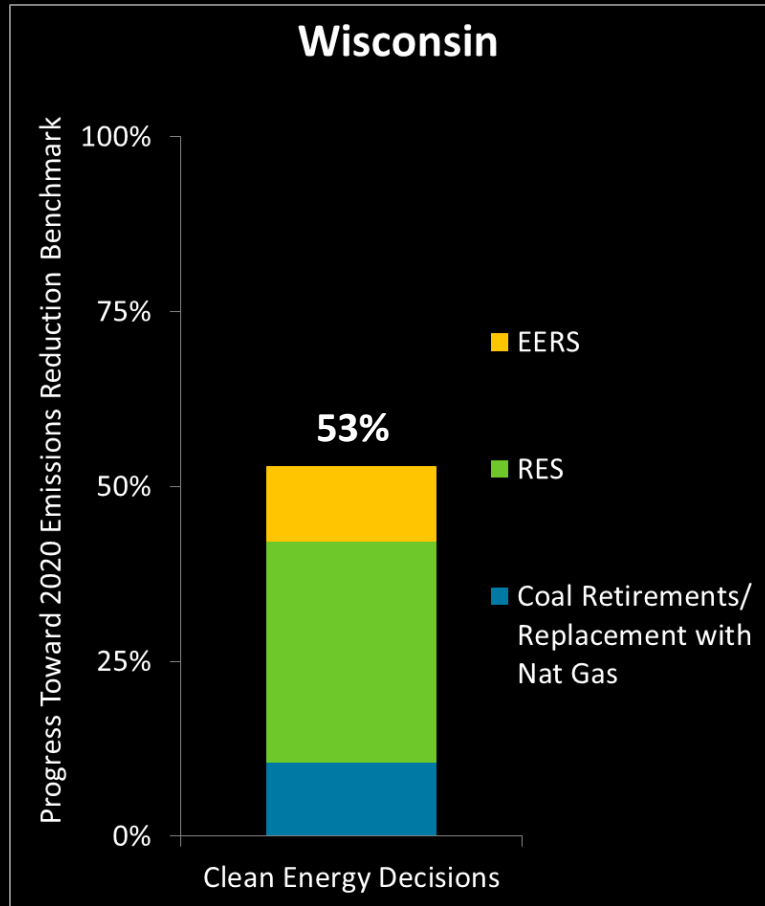
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Projected State Progress Toward Meeting Their 2020 Benchmarks



Recommendations

- EPA should strengthen and effectively implement the Clean Power Plan
- States and federal government should strengthen and enact strong clean energy policies
- States should prioritize renewable energy and energy efficiency in CPP compliance plans



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