

Review

A Review of Clean Electricity Policies—From Countries to Utilities

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Abstract: Due to the heavy stress on environmental deterioration and the excessive consumption of fossil resources, the transition of global energy from fossil fuel energy to clean energy has significantly accelerated in recent years. The power industry and policymakers in almost all countries are focusing on clean energy development. Thanks to progressive clean energy policies, significant progress in clean energy integration and greenhouse gas reduction has been achieved around the world. However, due to the differences in economic structures, clean energy distributions, and development models, clean energy policy scope, focus, and coverage vary between different countries, states, and utilities. This paper aims at providing a policy review for readers to easily obtain clean energy policy information on various clean energies in the U.S. and some other countries. Firstly, this paper reviews and compares some countries' clean energy policies on electricity. Then, taking the U.S. as an example, this paper introduces the clean energy policies of some representative states and utilities in the U.S in perspectives of renewable energies, electric vehicles, and energy storage.

Keywords: clean energy policy; countries; states; utility; wind power; solar power; energy storage

1. Introduction

In the recent decade, various types of clean energy witness continuously growing shares in the electricity generation mix [1,2]. With the increase in clean energy penetration and the retirement of conventional fossil fuel plants, clean energies are expected to provide almost 50% of total electricity globally by 2050 [3].

To realize the ambitious objective of the energy shifting from fossil fuels towards clean energy technologies, nearly all utilities and countries worldwide have formulated renewable energy development goals and supporting policies [4–7]. Due to the trend of using electricity as the major form of energy delivery, the electric grid has been the focus of clean energy policies in recent years. With the decrease in power equipment investment costs, these renewable energy policies are helping to increase clean energy penetration in electric grids. In the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which was submitted by 181 countries under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, approximately 3/4 of NDCs particularly pointed out that renewables can be used for mitigating climate change, and more than 50% of them have set up clean energy goals. Some countries and many more utilities have also set aggressive targets at 100% electricity from clean energy [8].

Due to the differences in economic structures, clean energy distributions, and development models, clean energy policy scope, focus, and coverage vary between different countries, states, and utilities. Some papers have reviewed the clean energy policies in some countries or compared specific types of clean energy [9–13]. The authors of [9] made a summary of the various solar power policies implemented in different countries around the world. The obstacles to clean energy development and the Indian government's relevant policies to promote clean energy throughout India are introduced in [10]. The authors of [11] summarized clean energy development in Iran. Moreover, the deployment plan of clean energy generation and related technologies has been investigated. A summary of the solar power policies, which have been planned or taken effect in some developed countries and Malaysia, was introduced in [12]. The authors of [13] examined policy options for promoting a shift to clean electricity in Africa. However, most papers just focus on one country or one type of clean energy. A comprehensive review and comparison for different governments and on various clean energy-supporting measures are needed to understand global clean electricity policies.

This paper firstly introduces the clean energy policies on electricity of some countries who are positive on clean energy promotion. Due to the advanced market-driven mechanism of the U.S. power grid under operation, in the rest of the paper, taking the U.S. as an example, this paper presents the recent clean energy policies in representative states and utilities of the U.S. The objective of this paper is to provide a policy review for readers to easily obtain clean energy policy information on various clean energies in the U.S. and some other countries.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. Section 2 introduces the clean energy policies of some representative countries worldwide. Then, taking the U.S. as an example, Section 3 introduces the clean energy targets and policies of progressive states in the U.S. The clean energy policies of some major utilities in the U.S are described in Section 4. The conclusion of this paper is given in Section 5.

2. The Clean Energy Policy of Countries

This section firstly introduces the clean energy policies of six countries around the world which have ambitious clean energy targets. Then, a comparison and an analysis of their clean energy policies in wind, solar, energy storage, and EV are provided at the end of the section.

2.1. United Kingdom (UK)

Up to the end of the first quarter of 2020, the energy mix of the UK is shown in Figure 1 [14]. According to the report from the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC), the United Kingdom plans to run 50% of clean energy by 2030 to realize the target of zero-emission at the end of 2050 through a cost-effective path (the cost-effective path is comprising measures that cost less than the projected carbon price across their lifetimes, together with measures that may cost more than the projected carbon price, but are necessary in order to manage costs and risks of meeting the 2050 target.) [15]. To achieve the zero-emission target, four sub-targets have been set, as shown in Figure 2 [16–21].

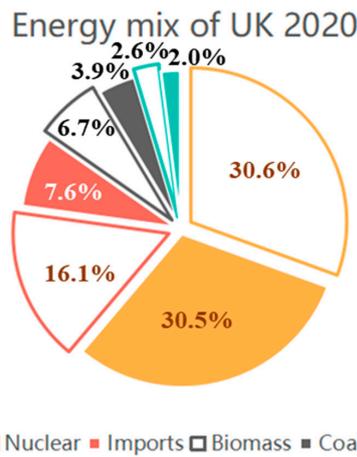


Figure 1. The energy mix of the UK by the end of the first quarter of 2020.

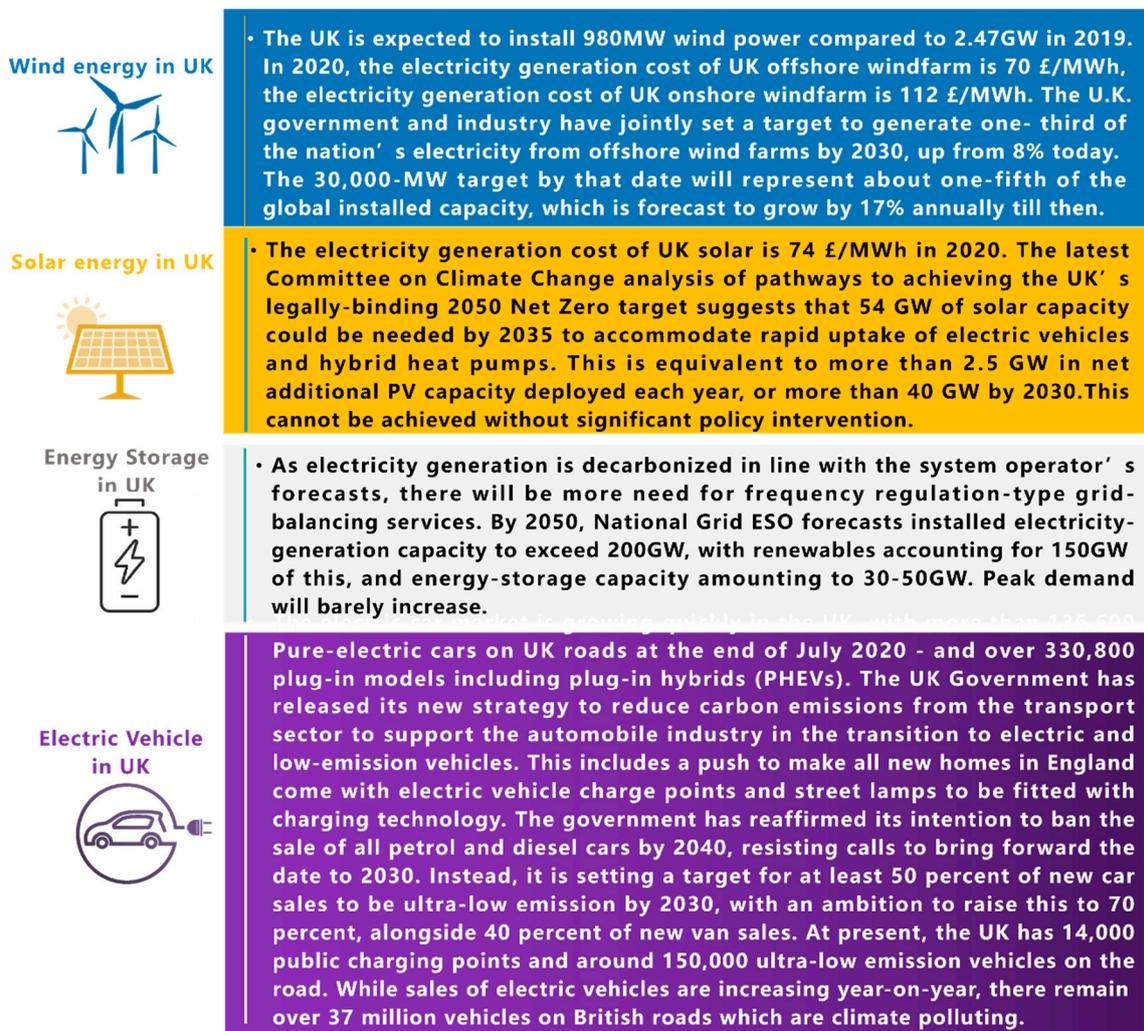


Figure 2. The zero-emission targets from the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) report.

2.2. Germany

Up to the end of the first half of 2020, the energy mix of Germany is shown in Figure 3 [22]. In 2016, the Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2050 was announced by the Germany government, in order to set a long-term pathway for reducing the greenhouse gas emission of utilities and emissions industries [23].

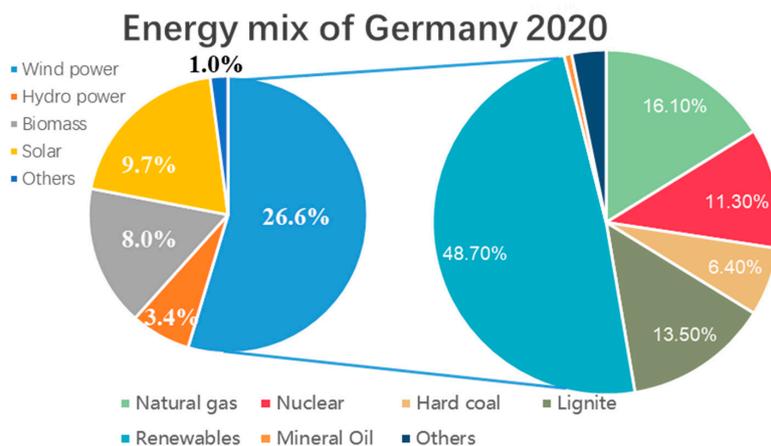


Figure 3. The energy mix of Germany by the end of the first half of 2020.

In the CAP 2050, the targets of greenhouse gas emission reduction are to achieve a 40% cut by 2020, 55% cut by 2030, 70% cut by 2040, and 80–95% cut by 2050. To reach the target for 2020, the federal government of Germany proposed a plan to realize 65% generation from clean energy sources by 2030 and requires an increase in the wind and solar capacity from 120 to 215–237GW. To achieve the CAP 2050, four sub-targets have been set as shown in Figure 4 [24–28].

Wind energy in Germany

By July 2020, about 55GW onshore windfarms were in operation across Germany. For land-based wind, Germany expects to install 2.8 GW/yr from 2017 to 2019 and 2.9 GW/yr after 2020. Offshore wind power capacity is expected to reach 15 GW by 2030 (0.5 GW/yr in 2021 and 2022, and 0.7 GW/yr from 2023-2025). Land-based pilot R&D turbines with a power capacity of up to 125 MW/yr are exempted from the obligatory call for bids within the EEG 2017. Those wind energy capacities will contribute to the overall goal of providing 55% to 60% renewable electricity by 2035 and at least 80% by 2050.

Electric Vehicle in Germany

To help achieve an overall 55% cut in CO2 emissions on 1990 levels by 2030, some 10 million EVs are needed on Germany's roads to achieve this. The government's 1 million EVs by 2020 target has been moved back to 2022.

Solar energy in Germany

In the Germany's Climate Action Programme 2030, the support cap for photovoltaic solar power, currently set at 52 GW, will be removed completely. The government calls for solar PV installed capacity to reach 98 GW by 2030.

Energy storage in Germany

The total power storage capacity available in Germany could grow immensely over the next decade, the German government says. In a response to a parliamentary inquiry by the pro-business FDP, the government said that the combined capacity of pumped-hydro storages, big batteries, home storage systems and power-to-gas facilities could rise from the current 0.42 gigawatts (GW) to more than 24 GW by 2030.

Figure 4. The clean energy targets from the Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2050.

2.3. Denmark

In 2018, the government of Denmark announced an energy agreement to fulfill the target set by the government that makes Denmark independent of coal fuels by 2050 and transformed into a low-carbon society. The funding has been allocated to achieve 55% of the total energy needs of Denmark from clean energy. Some highlights of the Denmark energy agreement are shown in Figure 5 [29].

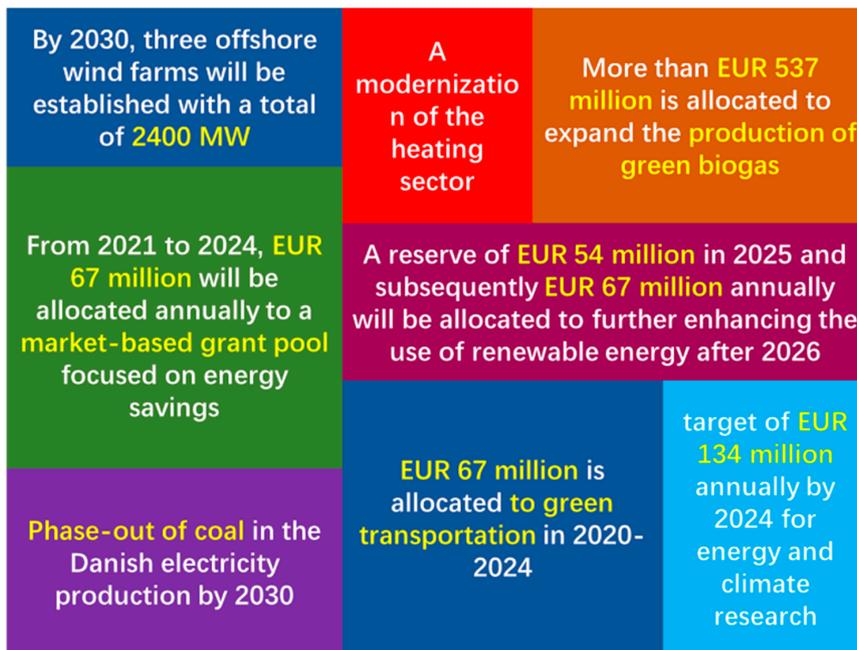


Figure 5. The highlights of the Denmark energy agreement.

To achieve the energy agreement of Denmark, three sub-targets have been set as shown in Figure 6 [30–32].

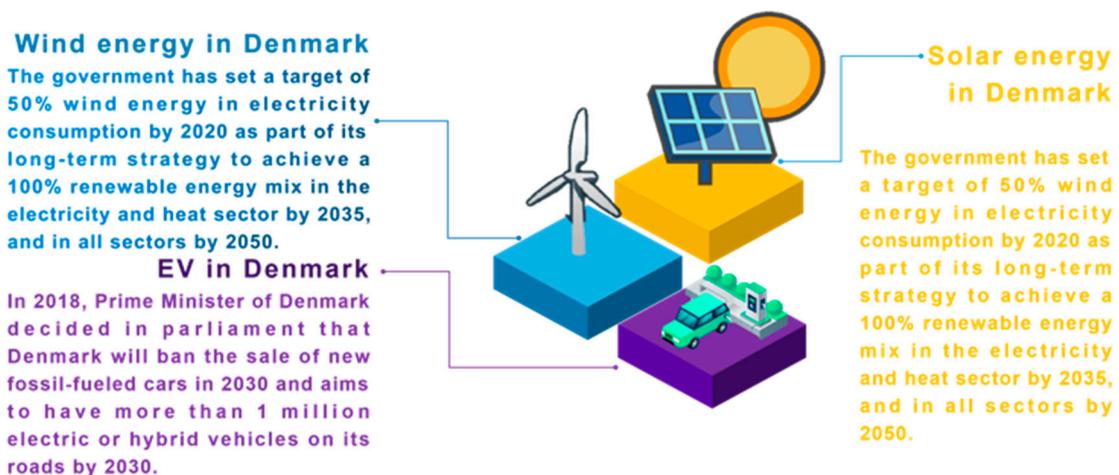


Figure 6. The clean energy policies for realizing the Denmark energy agreement.

2.4. Australia

The energy mix of Australia in 2020 is shown in Figure 7 [33]. The federal government of Australia announced a Mandatory Renewable Energy Target (MRET) in 2001, in order to increase the new 9500 GWh clean energy generation until 2020 [34]. In recent years, the federal government of Australia updated its MRET to make sure at least 33,000 GWh of electricity is from clean energy generation at the end of 2020. In the updated MRET, about 50 percent clean energy by 2030 and 75 percent clean energy by 2040 must be ensured by utilities and electric providers [35,36]. To realize the MRET, some clean energy policies have been put forward as shown in Figure 8 [37–40].

Energy mix of Australia 2020

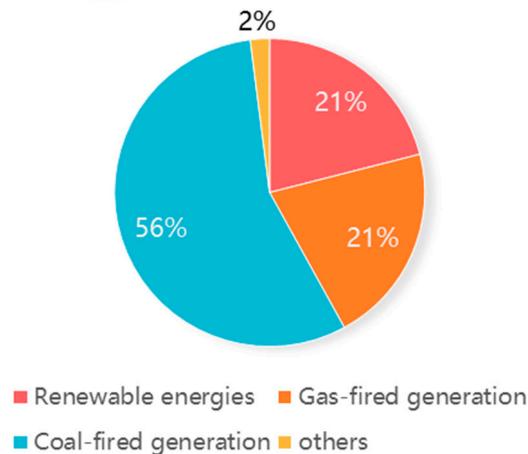


Figure 7. The energy mix of Australia in 2020.

Solar power in Australia

As of June 2020, Australia's over 2.4 million solar PV installations had a combined capacity of 18,583 MW photovoltaic (PV) solar power. The Coalition government expects large-scale solar to grow from 5GW to 8GW in the ten years between 2020 and 2030 and smaller solar systems of less than 100kW to more than double nation-wide over the same period, from 11GW to 26GW. Mid-scale solar (between 100kW and 5MW) is expected to grow from 0GW to 2GW in 2030.

EV in Australia

The Australia government analysis forecasts that half the new cars sold in Australia in 2035 will be electric vehicles. The government has said it will introduce a national electric vehicle strategy to cut carbon dioxide emissions by 10m tonnes by 2030. Modeling suggests the electric vehicle share of new car sales in Australia will rise from about 0.34% today to 8% in 2025. It is predicted to then leap to 27% of new car sales in 2030 and 50% in 2035 as prices of electric car technology fall.



Energy storage in Australia

Australia is set to add 1.2 gigawatt-hours of energy storage capacity in 2020. The Clean Energy Council has released a report, Energy Storage in Australia – Commercial Opportunities, Barriers and Policy, which suggested the market for energy storage technology in Australia will be approximately 3000MW by 2030. The report added that energy storage is emerging as a potential means to support existing electricity networks and it will also facilitate the efficient operation of electricity markets, improve the stability of the electricity grid, and meet the needs of residential and commercial customers.

Figure 8. The clean energy policy for realizing the Mandatory Renewable Energy Target (MRET).

2.5. China

The energy mix of China by the end of 2019 is shown in Figure 9 [41]. The China State Economic and Trade Commission (SETC) in 2001 published the 10th Five-Year Plan for Sustainable Development. The 10th Five-Year Plan for Sustainable Development clearly stated the detailed clean energy development and commercialization plan. In addition, the Center of Renewable Energy Development (CRED) has given a draft law named "Renewable Energy Development and Utilization Promotion Law". The aim of the "Renewable Energy Development and Utilization Promotion Law" is to reduce pollution emission and protect the environment. With the 10th Five-Year Plan for Sustainable Development and the "Renewable Energy Development and Utilization Promotion Law", some incentive policies, such as the subsidy to feed-in tariffs of renewable energies, the tax deduction for both renewable energies generators and consumers, and the priority natural resource supply for renewable energies infrastructure installation, have been structured to encourage clean energy development and stimulate the market for providing more opportunities to clean energy providers [42,43]. Under the booming of clean energy in China, in 2014, the International Renewable

Energy Agency (IRENA) published a report called “Roadmap 2030—A Renewable Energy Roadmap for China” [44,45]. The report indicates that the proportion of clean energy could be up to 35 percent by 2030, which will make China become the largest clean energy user, about 20 percent of global clean energy. The planned development pathways of wind, solar, electric vehicles, and energy storage in China are summarized in Figure 10 [46–49].

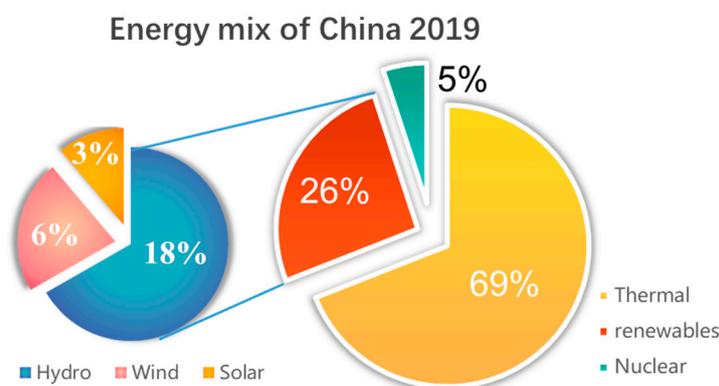


Figure 9. The energy mix of China by the end of 2019.

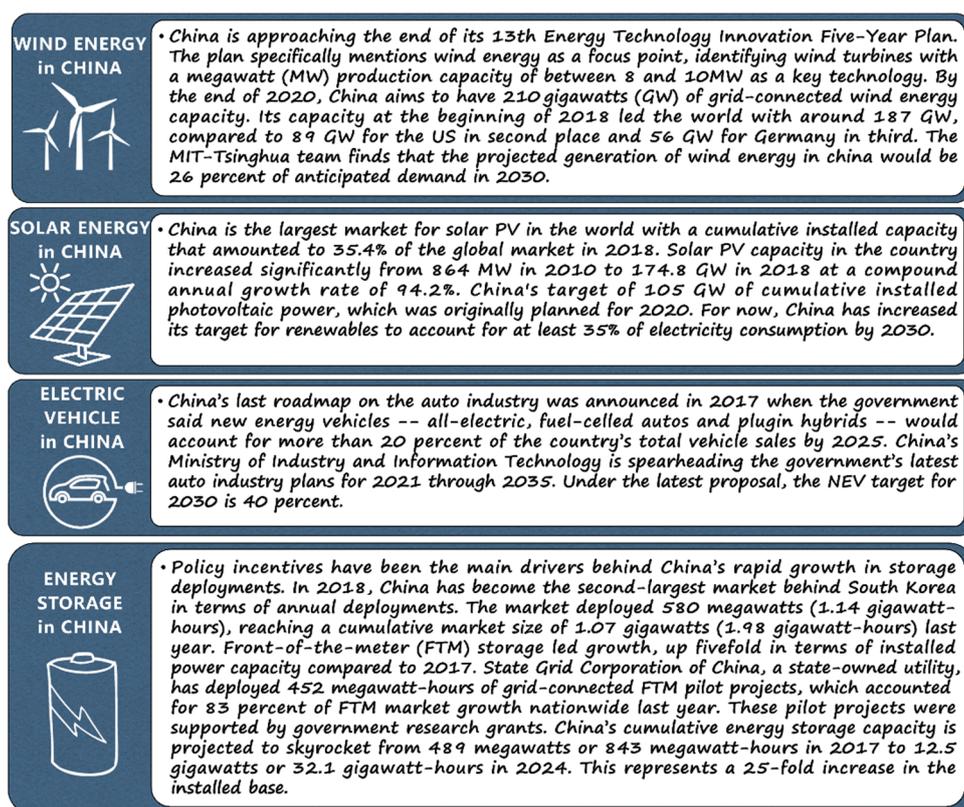


Figure 10. The clean energy policies in China.

2.6. India

The energy mix of India by the end of 2019 is shown in Figure 11 [50]. As one of the biggest countries in the world, India has more than 1.3 billion people, and it also has a vast economy and a huge military. For maintaining the normal operation of this huge country, India's energy requirement is large and increasing rapidly. In 2018, the primary energy consumption of India reached 809.2 million tons of oil equivalent in 2018, which made it become the third-largest energy consumer country that

is only behind China and the U.S. For keeping energy and sustainable development, India has set aggressive targets to realize an energy transition. The Indian government has set a target to realize 175GW of clean energy capacity by the end of 2022 [51–53]. The planned development pathways of wind, solar, and energy storage in India are summarized in Figure 12 [54–56].

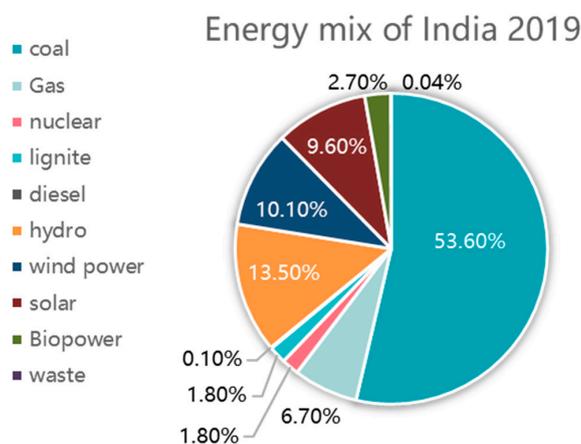


Figure 11. The energy mix of India by the end of 2019.

 Wind Power	 Solar Power	 Energy Storage
<p>Wind power generation capacity in India has significantly increased in recent years. As of 29 February 2020 the total installed wind power capacity was 37.669 GW, the fourth largest installed wind power capacity in the world. In the government clean energy plan, India targeted to achieve 60 GW of power from wind by 2022.</p>	<p>Solar power in India is a fast developing industry. The country's solar installed capacity was 35,122 MW as of 30 June 2020, which has increased the amount of solar power it has installed 10-fold from 2015. The government is hoping to triple that in the next few years and realize the 100 GW of solar capacity (including 40 GW from rooftop solar) by 2022.</p>	<p>The India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA) has estimated over 70 GW and 200 GWh of energy storage capacity in India by 2022, which is among the highest in the world. However, the roadmap for assured supply of clean energy indicates the need for a clear-cut policy and regulatory framework for energy storage, similar to India's policy on renewable energy.</p>

Figure 12. The clean energy policies of India in wind power, solar power, and energy storage.

Figure 13 summarizes the clean energy policies in these countries.

As given in Figure 13, the difference between the countries on their enacting clean energy policies is enormous due to the different existing constraints, the variety of clean energy types, and the diversity of economic and social development degrees, which further leads to a strategy difference for implementing planned scenarios, such as Denmark focusing on the development of the wind power to realize its clean energy target. The reason that Denmark adopts wind power as its mainstay of renewable energies is determined by its natural energy resource distribution as Denmark has abundant offshore wind energy. Similarly, the social recognition degree is also an important factor for specific clean energy development in one country. As shown in Figure 13, solar power developing in Germany is much more prompt than in other countries (98 GW by 2030, which is almost 30 times of Denmark), because the German public prefers distributed PV panels installed on their roof. The recognition of

solar power by the public greatly facilitates the installation solar power in Germany and the maturity of solar energy-related industries also prompts the clean energy policies in Germany partially to solar power. In addition, from Figure 13, it could be seen that the policies for EV promotion in all countries mentioned in this paper are aggressive and ambitious, because of the stern requirement of carbon dioxide emissions reductions. In the meantime, these policies also indicate that the EV-related industries will meet great opportunities in the future.

	Overview	Wind power	Solar power	EV	Energy storage
Germany	65% renewable sources by 2030	55% to 60% of renewable energy by 2035	98GW by 2030	10 million EVs may need by 2030	24GW by 2030
United Kingdom	50% renewable energy by 2030	one- third of the nation's electricity by 2030	54GW by 2035	ban the sale of all petrol and diesel cars by 2040	30-50GW by 2050
Denmark	55% renewable energy by 2030	50% of electricity by 2020	3400MW by 2030	1 million electric or hybrid vehicles by 2030	
Australia	50% renewable energy by 2030		Large-scale solar (8MW), smaller solar (26 GW),Mid-scale solar 2GW by 2030	half the new cars sold in Australia in 2035	3000MW by 2030
China	35% renewable energy by 2030	26% of electricity by 2030	35% of electricity by 2030	40% of electricity by 2030	32.1 GW/h by 2024.
India	175GW of clean energy capacity by the end of 2022	60 GW by 2022.	100 GW by 2022		70 GW and 200 GWh by 2022

Figure 13. Summary of the clean energy policy of some countries.

In general, the clean energy policies of countries are more macroscopic and comprehensive, which involves the development of various clean energy technologies and future energy transition pathways. According to the recent reports or news, China and Denmark have already met their 2020 targets, but Australia may miss their 2020 emissions reduction target [57–59]. The main reason that Australia may miss its clean energy target is due to the lack of a coherent national energy policy. These results indicate that these clean energy policies are not guaranteed to be accomplished by the countries like most people thought, further suggesting that the practice and implementation of these clean energy policies need coordination from various levels of governments and electric power companies. In the next section, taking the U.S. as an example, the recent clean energy policies in representative states and utilities of the U.S are presented to show how to concretely implement nationwide clean energy policies to power providers and consumers.

3. The Clean Energy Policy of Progressive States in the U.S.

3.1. Overview of the State Renewable Portfolio Standards and Goals

As one of the world's richest owners of wind, solar, hydro, and other renewable energy resources, the U.S. state governments have actively revised their renewable portfolio standards (RPSs), which require their regional utilities to sell a specified percentage of clean energy electricity. Moreover, state governments have also announced these standards to make their energy resources more diverse. Furthermore, RPSs could also promote domestic energy production and boost economic development. However, state RPSs have significant diversities on RPS goals, evolved entities, eligible resources to meet requirements and cost caps, etc. Figure 14 lists the RPS/voluntary goals of different states/territories [60–62]. From Figure 14, it could be seen that the aggressiveness degree of a state government's clean energy policy depends on the economic level of the state. Most of the states in the west and on the East Coast have ambitious clean energy targets.

State/ territory	Requirement/target	Cost Cap
Arizona	15% by 2025	None
California	44% by 2024; 52% by 2027; 60% by 2030. Also requires 100% clean energy by 2045.	Determined by the California Public Utilities Commission
Colorado	30% by 2020 (IOUs); 10% or 20% for municipalities and electric cooperatives depending on size; 100% clean energy by 2050 for utilities serving 500,000 or more customers	Approximately 2%
Connecticut	44% by 2030	Approximately 6%
Delaware	25% by 2025-2026	Approximately 3%
Hawaii	30% by 2020; 40% by 2030; 70% by 2040; 100% by 2045	None
Illinois	25% by 2025-2026	Approximately 1%
Indiana	10% by 2025	None
Iowa	105 MW of generating capacity for IOUs	None
Kansas	15% by 2015-2019; 20% by 2020	Caps gross RPS procurement costs
Maine	80% by 2030; statewide target of 100% renewables by 2050	Approximately 15%
Maryland	30.5% in 2020; 50% in 2030	Approximately 7%
Massachusetts	Class I: 35% by 2030 and an additional 1% each year after. Class II: 6.7% by 2020	Approximately 16%
Michigan	15% by 2021 (standard), 35% by 2025 (goal, including energy efficiency and demand reduction)	Approximately 2.5%
Minnesota	26.5% by 2025 (IOUs), 25% by 2025 (other utilities)	None
Missouri	15% by 2021 (IOUs)	Approximately 1%
Montana	15% by 2015	Approximately 0.1%
Nevada	50% by 2030; non-binding 100% carbon-free by 2050	None
New Hampshire	25.2% by 2025	Approximately 7%
New Jersey	50% by 2030	Approximately 10%
New Mexico	40% by 2025; 80% renewables by 2040; 100% of electricity supplied by zero-carbon resources by 2045	None
New York	70% renewables by 2030; 100% zero-emissions electricity requirement by 2040	None
North Carolina	12.5% by 2021 (IOUs); 10% by 2018 (munis and coops)	Approximately 1.5%
North Dakota	10% by 2015	None
Ohio	8.5% by 2026	Approximately 2%
Oklahoma	15% by 2015	None
Oregon	25% by 2025 (utilities with 3% or more of the state's load); 50% by 2040 (utilities with 3% or more of the state's load); 10% by 2025 (utilities with 1.5–3% of the state's load); 5% by 2025 (utilities with less than 1.5% of the state's load)	Approximately 4%
Pennsylvania	18% by 2020-2021	Approximately 8%
Rhode Island	14.5% by 2019, with increases of 1.5% each year until 38.5% by 2035	Approximately 13%
South Carolina	2% by 2021	None
South Dakota	10% by 2015	None
Texas	5,880 MW by 2015. 10,000 MW by 2025 (goal; achieved)	Approximately 3%
Utah	20% by 2025	None
Vermont	55% by 2017; 75% by 2032	Approximately 6%
Virginia	100% renewables by 2045 for Phase II utilities and 2050 for Phase I utilities	None
Washington	15% renewable by 2020; 100% greenhouse gas neutral by 2030; 100% renewable or zero-emitting by 2045	Approximately 4%
West Virginia	10% from 2015-2019, 15% from 2020-2024, 25% by 2025	None
Wisconsin	10% by 2015	None
Washington, D.C.	20% by 2020, 100% by 2032	Approximately 38%
Guam	25% by 2035	Data unavailable
Northern Mariana Islands	20% by 2016	Data unavailable
Puerto Rico	40% by 2025; 60% by 2040; 100% by 2050	Data unavailable
U.S. Virgin Islands	20% by 2015; 25% by 2020; 30% by 2025; up to 51% after 2025	Data unavailable

Figure 14. Renewable portfolio standards or voluntary goals of different states or territories.

3.2. Details for Some Progressive States

In this section, the clean energy policies of five progressive states in the U.S. are introduced.

3.2.1. California

As one of the most progressive states in the U.S., the Californian government signed the Senate Bill 100 (SB 100) in September 2018. The objective of SB 100 is to increase the overall requirement of clean energy from 50% to 60% by 2030 [63]. In addition, the legislation of California has also changed some rules of using large hydropower generation by publicly owned municipal utilities (POUs) and set a more aggressive target that realizes 100% electric retail sales from clean energy

by 2045. The detailed procurement requirements based on the interim target from the governing board are listed in Figure 15 [64].

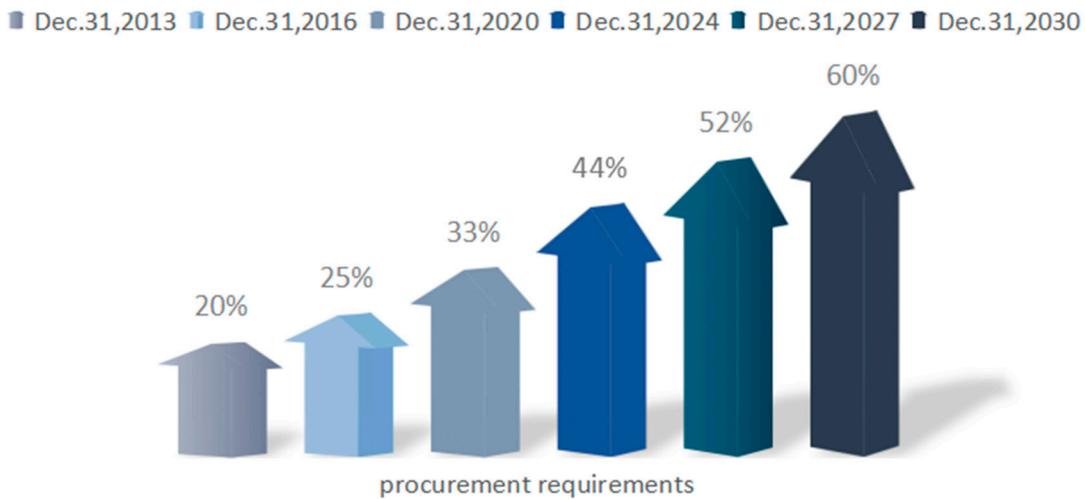


Figure 15. The detailed procurement requirements based on the interim target from the government board.

In addition, 1325MW of energy storage is required for utility collective procurement by 2020 and needs to be installed and delivered to the grid no later than 1 January 2025. The phase of procurement for each utility starts in 2014, and the share of each utility has to include a certain amount of energy storage at both the transmission and the distribution levels. Meanwhile, a certain amount of energy storage has to be deployed at the customer side.

3.2.2. New York State

As a pioneer in clean energy popularization, New York has been building momentum for many years through a strong and consistent climate and clean energy actions. The government of New York State aims at realizing a carbon-free electricity system and a carbon-neutral economy by 2040 [65]. The clean energy roadmap of New York State is shown in Figure 16. This plan includes all areas including electricity delivery, transportation, building, and industrial production. The New York Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) has also set a new standard, which codifies the clean energy goal of New York to 70% by 2030 while cutting down the greenhouse gas emissions to 15% by 2050. The standard aims to scale up grid modernization, energy storage, and solar power to improve system flexibility, reliability, and resilience. The necessary foundation mentioned in this work is to support the expansion of 3000 MW of energy storage and 6000 MW of distributed solar power [66].

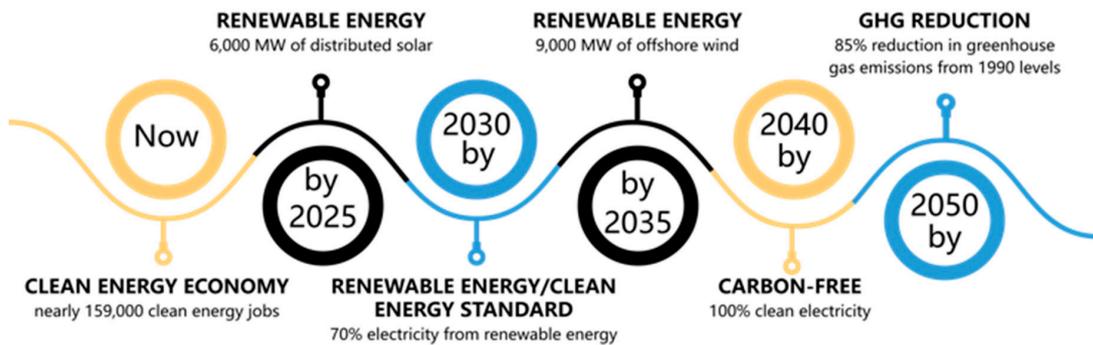


Figure 16. The clean energy roadmap of New York State (now to 2050).

3.2.3. Washington State

Washington State has also proposed an aggressive target on the clean energy transition. The Clean Energy Transformation Act (S.B. 5116 of 2019) proposes to realize 100% clean electricity by 2045. This Act requires that all utilities must eliminate coal from their state portfolios by 2025. Besides, the utilities should be greenhouse gas-neutral from 2030. By 2045, all electricity in Washington State must come from clean energy without emission [67,68]. The target of Washington State on clean energy is shown in Figure 17.

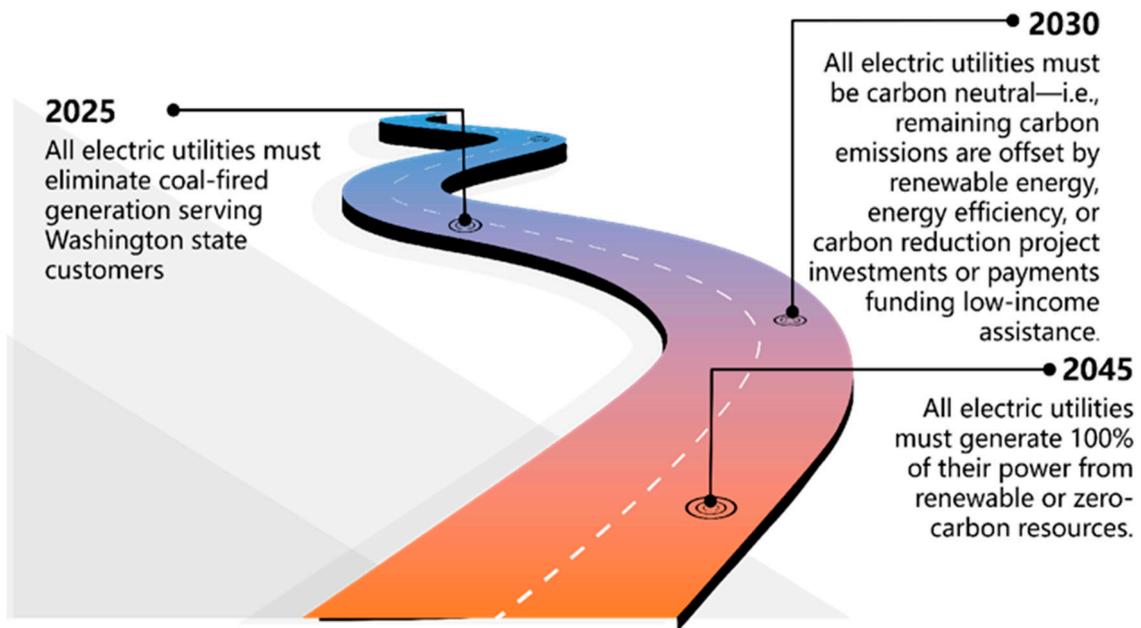


Figure 17. The target of Washington State on clean energy.

3.2.4. Virginia

In 2020, Virginia State set a clean energy target for realizing mandatory 100 percent clean energy for Phase I utilities (Appalachian Power Company, etc.) and Phase II utilities (Dominion Energy Virginia, etc.). In the previous plan, Virginia State enacted a voluntary target for utilities in order to achieve 15% clean energy by 2025 [69]. After the revision, according to the new requirement, the targets of Phase I utilities and Phase II utilities are shown in Figure 18 [69–71].

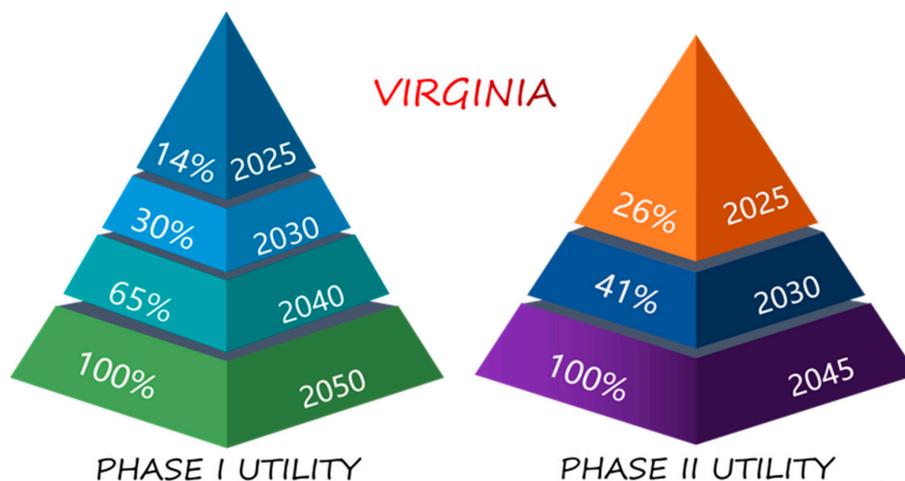


Figure 18. The target of Virginia State on clean energy.

In order to realize this mandatory 100% clean energy target, some targets and policies on solar and onshore wind farms, offshore wind farms, and energy storage have been announced by Virginia. Some highlights of the clean energy plan are shown in Figure 19.

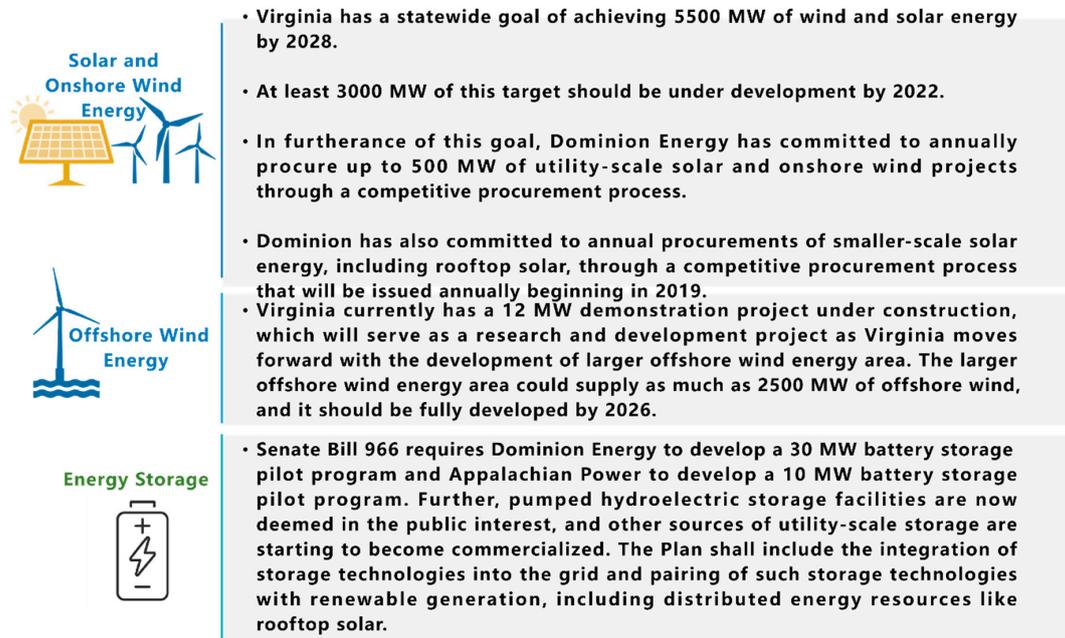


Figure 19. The highlights of some of Virginia’s cleaning policies and plans.

3.2.5. Hawaii

Hawaii set a renewable portfolio standard in 2015. In this standard, each utility that sells electricity in Hawaii must set the mandatory target to realize the following percentages of “renewable electrical energy” sales [72]. The clean energy roadmap of Hawaii is shown in Figure 20.

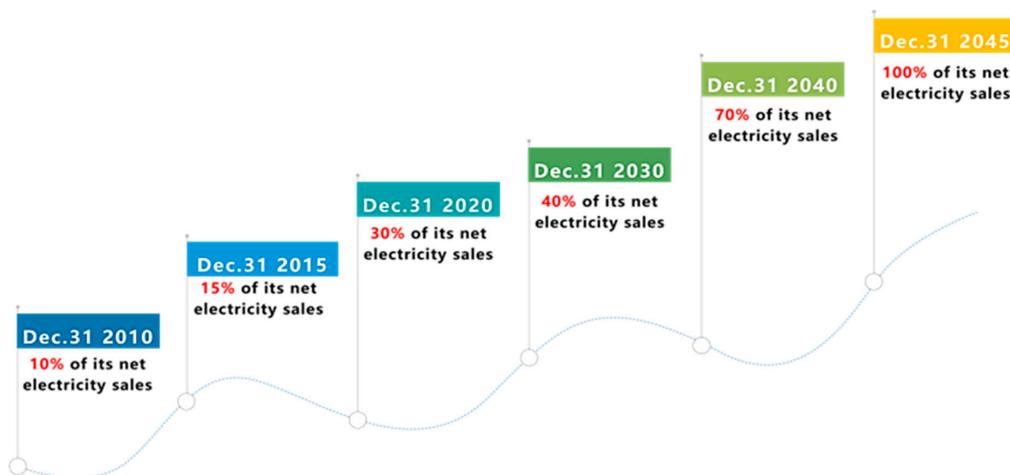


Figure 20. The clean energy roadmap of Hawaii.

As shown from the five representative states in the U.S., the focused types of clean energy policies follow the national clean energy policies. However, compared to the national clean energy policies, the targets determined by states are more specific and accurate (such as the energy storage requirement of California by 2020), which demonstrates that the enforceability of clean energy policies in states may be better than the federal government. In addition, the difference between the states on their enacting

clean energy policies still exists due to the variety of clean energy types and the diversity of economic development degrees. For example, the clean energy policies that New York State focuses on increase the clean energies share in its generation mix. However, the clean energy policies of Washington State aim at forcing the utilities to eliminate coal from their state portfolios. The different focus of the clean energy policies will lead to the utilities or power providers adopting different schemes that affect the power consumption habit of the public and the related industries' development. In the next section, the clean energy policies of representative utilities of the U.S are introduced to show their policy changes.

4. The Clean Energy Policy of U.S. Utilities

The implementation of state clean energy policies needs the cooperation of the utilities. This section discusses the clean energy policies of five representative utility companies that are leaders in clean energy development in the U.S.

4.1. Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E)

As the largest electric power provider in California (and one of the largest combined natural gas and electric companies in the U.S.), the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) has issued a comprehensive reorganization plan in order to strengthen the commitment of clean energy and the climate. Although PG&E is under bankruptcy protection and meets serious financial challenges, it is still ready to take leadership in guaranteeing a clean future for California and the U.S. [73].

In the reorganization plan, PG&E intends to support the state's goals of 5,000,000 zero-emission vehicles (ZEV) on the road by 2030. It will need PG&E to provide about 250,000 charging stations, which will include more than ten thousand fast chargers, and two hundred hydrogen fueling stations by 2025. In addition, the utility plans to realize 60% clean energy of the total energy procurement by 2030. It is envisioned that the clean energy-related reorganization plan and investments of PG&E will play an important role in California's clean energy future.

4.2. Southern California Edison (SCE)

Southern California Edison (SCE) is the primary electric utility for most of Southern California, which provides more than 14 million people with electricity across approximately 50,000 square miles. SCE also presented a clean energy policy named the Clean Power and Electrification Pathway in order to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and air pollutants in California [74]. The objective of this plan is to reduce pollution and improve air quality for the future. The highlights of the Clean Power and Electrification Pathway until 2030 are summarized in Figure 21 [74].

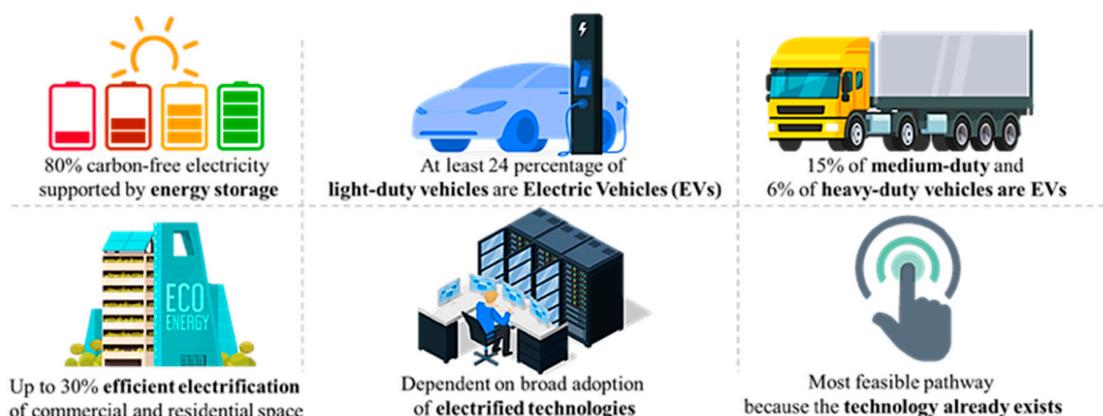


Figure 21. The highlights of the Clean Power and Electrification Pathway of South California Edison (SCE).

4.3. Dominion Energy

As one of the largest utilities in Virginia and North Carolina, Dominion Energy has committed to meeting clean energy targets and standards set by the government of Virginia and North Carolina. The Dominion Energy clean energy plan proposed two realizable and measurable targets [69]:

- Achieving 15% renewable power by 2025 (Virginia);
- Achieving 12.5% renewable power by 2021 (North Carolina).

For supporting these standards through existing clean energy resources, Dominion Energy plans to develop new clean energy besides purchasing clean energy certificates.

4.4. Duke Energy Carolinas

Duke Energy Carolinas has announced a new clean energy policy, whose goal is to realize zero-carbon emissions from electricity generation by 2050. Duke Energy Carolinas plans to accelerate the recent goal by cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 50% or more from 2005 to 2030.

The highlights of Duke Energy's proposed clean energy plan are summarized in Figure 22 [75].

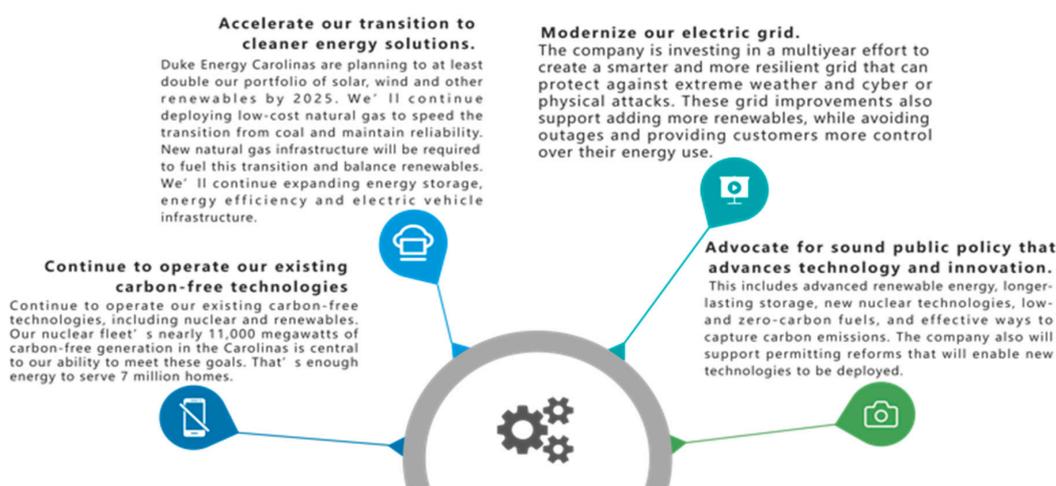


Figure 22. The highlights of Duke Energy's proposed clean energy plan.

4.5. DTE Energy

DTE Energy has announced a clean energy plan to realize a 32 percent cut in carbon emissions by 2023. The first phase is to shut off three of five remaining fuel generation plants. The carbon emission cut plan aims at reducing carbon emission by 50 percent by the end of 2030 and 80 percent or more by the end of 2040. They also pledge to adopt 25 percent clean energy for production by 2025 and at least 30 percent by 2030.

The highlights of DTE's proposed clean energy plan include traditional coal-fired plants shut-downs, carbon emission reduction, and clean energy development, which are summarized in Figure 23.

Figure 19 lists some clean energy policies of the main utilities [76–80].

From the mentioned five representative utilities and Figure 24, it could be found that the clean energy policy focus of utilities is highly related to the available clean energy resources in each state. The clean energy policy formulation for most utilities is based on the Bills enacted by the state government, such as Dominion Energy. They set two different clean energy consumption goals for Virginia and North Carolina in order to meet different requirements determined by their own clean energy policies. These clean energy policies will be a guideline for their inner energy companies for determining future, mainly energy, technology. In addition, the developing focus of renewable energies of different utilities is related to the natural clean energy source in the states, thus from Figure 24, it

could be seen that some states aim at using clean energy generation to replace conventional fossil fuel generation, while some states focus on energy saving and emission reduction. However, the clean policy pathways of most utilities are the same, which are planned to support clean energy capacities and generation increases in the state, boost the domestic job creation, and reduce the carbon emission. The achievement of these clean policy pathways will mainly be through market rules adjustment and tax deductions.

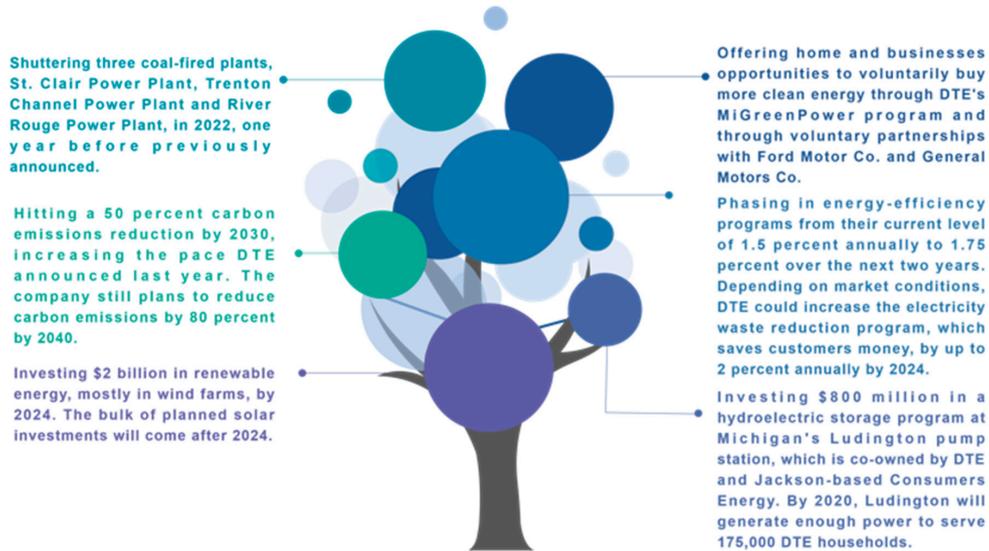


Figure 23. The highlights of DTE’s proposed clean energy plan.

Utility	Requirement/target
Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E)	60% procurement mandate is RES by 2030 provide 250,000 charging stations, including 10,000 fast chargers, and 200 hydrogen fueling stations statewide by 2025
Southern California Edison (SCE)	80% carbon-free electricity supported by energy storage At least 24% of light-duty vehicles are EVs (7MM) 15% of medium-duty and 6% of heavy-duty vehicles are electrified Up to 30% efficient electrification of commercial and residential space and water heating
Dominion Energy	Achieve 15% renewable power by 2025 (Virginia) Achieve 12.5% renewable power by 2021 (North Carolina)
Duke Energy Carolinas	cut the carbon emission to zero by 2050 double portfolio of solar, wind, and other renewables by 2025.
Florida Power & Light (FPL)	more than 40 percent of its electricity emissions-free by 2030
Consolidated Edison (Con Edison)	help the state reach its clean energy goal of 100 percent renewable energy by 2040
Georgia Power	pledged to cut carbon emissions by 50% by 2030, compared to 2007 levels, and to have “low to no” carbon emissions by 2050
DTE Energy	25% of production is renewable energies by 2025 and at least 30% by 2030

Figure 24. Summary of the clean energy policy of utilities in the U.S.

5. Gaps and Future Directions on Clean Energy Policies Review

In the process of reviewing the clean electricity policies from countries to utilities, this paper shows the values of the clean policy review. Firstly, it provides a reference for readers to easily obtain clean energy information. Secondly, the intuitive comparison in this paper indicates the difference of the clean energy policies between various countries, states in the U.S., and utilities. However, a number of gaps in this clean energy policies review were identified with many unanswered questions that need to be further addressed. Firstly, this paper indicates that the clean energy policies of the utilities are followed by the clean energy targets of states or countries. In fact, the electric market also plays an important role in policies promotion. However, the operation of the electric market is complex due to various types of generators, loads, and response resources participation. Thus, it is hard to clearly describe the stake between the clean energy policies implementation and electric market, which is valuable to be investigated in the future. In addition, public recognition has become a very critical factor to clean energy policies implementation. From reviewing, it could be seen that the optimum clean energy for a specific area may not be the final decision by the government. The acceptable level of the public becomes more and more important in clean energy policies determination. However, the quantitative analysis for the public recognition of clean energy policies has not received too much attention. This topic may be very interesting and significative for future research.

6. Conclusions

Clean energy policy influences the development of clean energy technologies and markets. The diversity of the scope, intensity, and comprehensiveness of clean energy policies in different utilities, states, and countries leads to the different development degrees of clean energy. This paper firstly introduced the clean energy policies on electricity of some countries who are positive on clean energy promotion. Then, taking the U.S. as an example, this paper presented the recent clean energy policies in representative states and utilities of the U.S. It can be seen from the results of the review and comparison that, firstly, due to the variety of clean energy types and the diversity of economic and social development degrees, the clean energy policies enacted by different countries have many differences. In addition, the clean energy policies of countries are more macroscopic and comprehensive, which involve the development of various clean energy technologies and future energy transition pathways. However, the practice and implementation of these clean energy policies need coordination from the various levels of governments and electric power companies. From comparing the results, it could be seen that, in the U.S., the clean energy policies determined by states are more specific and accurate compared to the national policies, which demonstrates that the enforceability of these clean energy policies may be better than the federal government. Besides, the aggressiveness degree of a state government's clean energy policy depends on the economic level of the state. The clean energy policy focus is related to the available clean energy resources in each state. The implementation of states' clean energy policies relies on utilities and power companies. The clean energy policy formulation for most utilities is based on the Bills enacted by the state government. Thus, the clean policy pathways of most utilities aim at supporting clean energy capacities and generation increases in the state, boosting domestic job creation, and reducing carbon emissions. These observations indicate that a comprehensive review and comparison are necessary and may help clean energy researchers and practitioners to understand clean energy policy determination, promotion, and implementation.

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