

LEARNING ACTIVITIES EXAMPLE FOR RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD:

This learning activity can be integrated into any social science, natural science, technology, humanities or math course. (Each academic area has concepts that contribute to the topics below.)

Provide the one page summary of fixing the Illinois RPS, How to make Illinois into a clean-energy leader by David Roberts, and the text of Senate Bill 103 (<http://ilga.gov/legislation/98/SB/09800SB0103.htm>). Then assign students the following.

Using concepts that you have learned in this course, write a personal letter to your state legislators, local officials or college presidents to:

1. In Illinois, pass Senate Bill 103.
2. Nationally, to stimulate growth in the renewable energy industry.

Information students should consider addressing:

1. Why Senate Bill 103 is imperative to the success of Illinois' renewable portfolio standard.
2. Why the renewable portfolio standard is important for environmental, economic and human health.
3. Why this is the right thing for legislators to do.
4. Their interest in the renewable energy industry and the programs their college offers, as well as their concern for needing a robust renewable energy industry in order to participate in these programs and keep jobs here in the United States.
5. How this can help grow the green economy in the United States.

Points that might be included:

1. Renewable energy accounts for nine percent of the energy consumption in the United States, but in each region, has the potential to meet or exceed current energy demands.
2. As of May 2012, thirty-seven states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico had renewable portfolio standards or goals in place.
3. Every state in the United States can produce its own energy, keeping energy dollars in state, reducing pollution and creating new jobs. However, having the right policies in place is imperative.

In addition to mailing these letters and submitting copies for class purposes, they should also be shared with Alessandra Cairo at acairo@prairiestate.edu (on behalf of the AACC SEED Action Community Action Project). Any feedback received should also be shared so it can be used by higher education institutions and other stakeholders in a coordinated effort.

Additional Resources for Students:

1. U.S. Department of Energy <http://www.eere.energy.gov/>
2. Natural Resources Defense Council <http://www.nrdc.org/energy/renewables/>
3. Center for Sustainable Systems http://css.snre.umich.edu/css_doc/CSS03-12.pdf
4. Environmental Law & Policy Center <http://elpc.org/about>