

Template Email to Student Groups and Student Life Staff

Student groups and student life activities open to the campus or even the community have a unique and important role to play to educate our students and the public about how to create a more environmentally sound future. There are multiple opportunities to relate to today's issues that will give students and the public the opportunity to help create real world solutions to our shared sustainability challenges. Such a learning assignment, whether as a core part of your course or as an alternative credit assignment, will help students become more engaged in solving societal problems.

The SEED Action Community is sharing information you can use in your courses. The issue we are sharing with you now involves the fact that the Illinois Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard is broken and through fixing this system through the passing of Senate Bill 103 and encouraging state legislators to provide for a more robust renewable energy industry, the result will be a healthier local economy, healthier humans due to higher air quality, and more jobs for our students.

The passing of Illinois Senate Bill 103 will effectively "fix" the broken Illinois Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Senate Bill 103 will:

- Require the Illinois Power Agency include the procurement of renewable energy credits in amounts projected to be sufficient to meet certain renewable energy resources portfolio standards;
- Require the Agency to use the Illinois Power Agency Renewable Energy Resources Fund to procure renewable energy credits for specified purposes;
- Make changes with regard to the renewable portfolio standard; and
- Amend the Public Utilities Act and provide that delivery services shall include the recovery of the electric utility's costs of renewable energy credits and excluded renewable energy resources contract costs.

Creating a robust renewable energy industry will:

- Promote economic growth in the United States by keeping energy dollars at home and create thousands of new jobs;
- Provide a healthier environment and better air quality by reducing carbon emissions and other gases that contribute the global climate change; and
- Allow us to meet or exceed the renewable energy portfolio standards or goals in place in thirty-seven states, Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico.

Your student groups and student life schedule can get involved by encouraging students and the public to write a personal letter, a key action, to grow jobs and fix the Illinois Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Please encourage these groups to contact state legislators, local officials or college presidents, informing them on why passing Senate Bill 103 is so important and how imperative it is to begin work to create a robust renewable energy industry to create thousands of jobs, right here in the United States.

For more information, review the learning example at <http://theseedcenter.org/Special-Pages/Action-Community--Policy-and-Civic-Engagement-for-/Civic-Engagement-for-Students-and-Staff>.