

LWV Ohio Statehouse Day – April 9, 2014
LWVO Lobbyist Report
Renewable Energy (LWVUS Positions on Natural Resources)
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2013 saw a concerted national attack on the green energy laws in many states. The effort failed badly; no state weakened its law and a few even strengthened theirs.

In Ohio, electric utilities have annual goals for both renewable energy and energy efficiency. For several years our message has concentrated on the low cost of Ohio's renewable energy mandate. We continue to have the least renewable energy and one of the highest electricity rates in our region. However, utilities have been meeting their renewable-energy goals and the pace is scheduled to start increasing.

The legislation introduced last year would weaken renewable energy in Ohio and transfer efficiency dollar savings from consumers to utilities. LWV efforts included committee testimony in both chambers, meetings and correspondence with individual legislators, and distribution of a fact package to the Senate Public Utilities Committee. We also have been collaborating with an informal group of about 100 opponents of the legislation. Our efforts were successful; a scheduled vote in the Senate committee was cancelled at the last minute and the House never came close to voting.

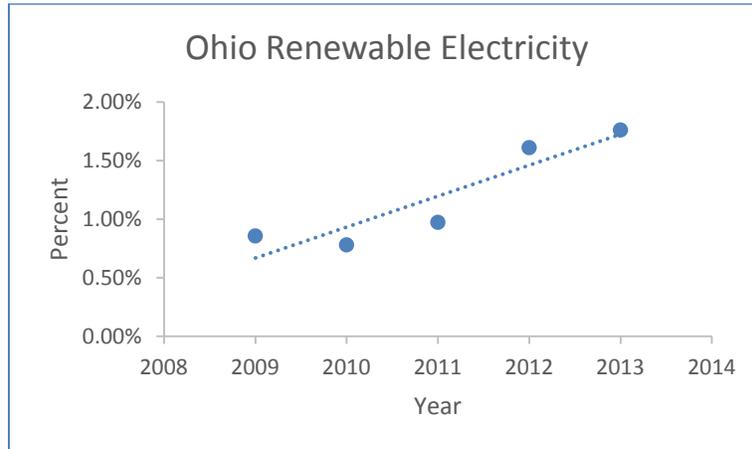
But the monster never dies. Last year's bill has already had new proponent testimony before the Senate Committee. In addition, a new bill to weaken the current law is reportedly being prepared. We are ready. Our testimony has been written and we have a new fact sheet (see the reverse side of this report).

In addition to electricity we have been supporting legislation to encourage alternative-fuel vehicles. In February, we testified in favor of a bill to subsidize purchase of natural gas and electric vehicles.

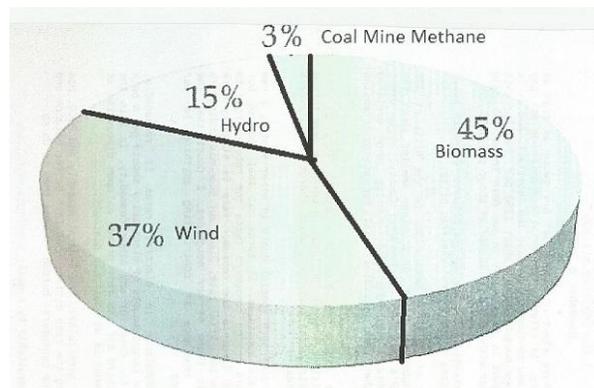
Ohio's Renewable-Electricity Law is Working

Ohio's utilities are meeting the goals of our renewable energy law at low cost to the consumer.

Renewable energy in Ohio is increasing:



Ohio has a variety of sources of renewable energy. This chart shows which ones were used to comply with the law:



Most importantly, the cost of Ohio's renewable energy law has amounted to about 35¢ per month for each household.

Sources: Energy Information Administration, *Electric Power Monthly* (Feb edition for each year gives data for previous year); Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, *Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard Report* (final for 2011, draft for 2012)