



Report: Consumers Energy on track to meet state's renewable energy standard

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JACKSON -- **Consumers Energy** and other Michigan utilities are making progress in meeting the state's renewable energy standard, according to a new report.

The Michigan Public Service Commission issued **its annual report on the standard's implementation and its cost effectiveness** Thursday. The 2008 energy-reform law mandates that 10 percent of utilities' energy come from Michigan-based renewable sources by 2015.

About 5 percent of the Jackson-based utility's electricity comes from renewable sources, and that is expected to increase to 8 percent when the company's new wind farm in Mason County starts up this year, Consumers Energy officials have said.

"Michigan utilities are steadily implementing their plans to reach the goal of supplying 10 percent of their electricity from renewable energy sources," MPSC Chairman John D. Quackenbush said in a statement. "As new renewable energy projects become operational -- many by the end of 2012 -- Michigan's renewable energy percentage is expected to increase significantly."

MPSC's report includes data submitted by alternative energy suppliers, bringing the estimated 2010 renewable energy percentage to 3.6 percent.

According to annual reports filed by each electric provider, \$21.7 million was spent on renewable energy in 2010, and \$78.6 million was anticipated to be spent during 2011.

Consumers plans to invest about \$6.6 billion in its utility operations to add value to customers and improve the environment.

In September, Consumers Energy announced it was lowering its \$2.50 monthly renewable energy surcharge to 65



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cents, saving the average residential customer more than \$22 a year.

The reduction was because of lower-than expected costs to build wind farms and buy wind energy and other forms of renewable energy, as well as an extension of a federal tax credit.

Since the state's 2008 energy law was enacted, the surcharge has appeared on customer bills and will stay on for the next 17 years.

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