



SB184 – Feed-In Tariff Pilot Program for Local Clean Energy

In the current economic conditions, Nevada ratepayers need to choose their clean energy investments well: keeping costs low while maximizing economic benefits in terms of new jobs, attracting new business, and opening new growth opportunities.

Nevada's economy can gain the most with policies tailored to grow the different markets for clean energy generation. The central station market (large scale, remotely sited generation) is well served by the existing Request For Proposals (RFP) system. The net-metering market (small scale, self-power generation) will be served by bills under consideration that improve the various Renewable Generations Programs.

The market that has no Program, but represents the largest potential for the economy, is in the middle: wholesale distributed generation (WDG). These are small-to-medium scale projects, close to where energy is needed, that let anyone become an energy seller to the grid. These new opportunities for Nevada residents and business owners will put Nevada on the map as one of the best states to locate 21st century cleantech companies.

SB184 is a pilot Feed-in Tariff (FIT) Program designed to spur the growth of a vibrant WDG market. It provides a pilot of similar size and structure as proposed changes to the Renewable Generations Programs in order to allow fair competition and equal opportunity for each market to attract business and jobs to Nevada.

SB184 recently passed the state Senate with notable bipartisan support. On a 13-8 vote, the two supporting Republicans were Senate Minority Leader McGinness and Senator Rhoads. The bill will be heard in the Assembly Commerce and Labor Committee within the next two weeks.

With the help of FIT4NV and the Clean Coalition, a broad coalition is forming around SB184 including clean energy industry, economic development groups, environmental groups and commercial real estate interests. The bill has attracted the attention of some of the largest clean energy manufacturers in the country and is already bringing welcome attention to Nevada as a place to do business in clean energy.

Key Features:

- Directs the PUCN to design a pilot FIT program for new WDG projects that are sized from 100 KW to 3 MW.
- FIT Programs require standard, long-term contracts for the utility to purchase clean energy
- Program open to solar, wind, biomass, biogas, and waterpower.
- Program open to any type of project owner: corporation, small business, real estate owner, community group, etc.
- The incentives built in to FIT contracts are limited to 0.5% of energy rates. A typically household monthly bill of \$100 would increase no more than 50 cents.
- The PUCN sets the amount of new energy that can be contracted each year and reviews the incentives every year. If the incentives seem too high or too low, the PUCN can adjust them.



Key Benefits:

- The FIT pilot program is estimated to bring online 10-20 MW of new clean energy every year for less than 50 cents / month on a typical household bill. That's enough energy to power the peak needs of more than 10,000 homes.
- The FIT pilot program will likely create hundreds of new clean energy jobs and produce over \$50 million in economic output each year for the next 9 years.
- The FIT pilot program will boost the volume of in-state clean energy projects to a scale where it makes financial sense for manufacturers, assemblers and new startups to set up shop in Nevada. This kind of "innovation immigration" will be critical for diversifying Nevada's economic base.
- The FIT pilot program will provide property owners, businesses, and individuals the opportunity to participate in renewable energy via a simple and transparent process, creating a wealth of new economic opportunities and promoting competition in the clean energy market.
- The FIT pilot program is completely separate from the existing net-metering and RPS programs, addressing an untapped market with huge potential.