

Hawaii accelerates its transition to cleaner energy

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Two major initiatives are in the works at the State Energy Office, and both are aimed at reducing Hawaii's dependence on fossil fuel.

The state is preparing to unveil a major report in June that will address the use of transportation fuel. The transportation sector accounts for more than 60 percent of the energy consumed in Hawaii.

The Energy Office also is reaching out to stakeholders about setting up another policy initiative, this one to accelerate the move toward renewable energy.

Energy Office Administrator [Mark Glick](#) told PBN the initiative will include the necessary steps to get to 100 percent renewable energy.

The state set an initial goal in 2008 as part of the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative to reach 70 percent clean energy by 2030 — 40 percent from renewable sources and 30 percent from efficiency measures. Now, it is reaching higher.

Glick said the state's new renewable-energy goal is to achieve 30 percent renewable energy by 2020 and 60 percent by 2030, although a Senate committee has amended the benchmark to 40 percent.

"We are now setting these aspirational targets, but between now and then, what do we need to do to update that?" he asked. "That's going to be a very vigorous effort that emerges after the [legislative session]."

The report scheduled to be released in June will address the state's transportation energy issues with more than 50 strategies, including an effort to significantly reduce gas and diesel usage.