California Must Achieve 100 Percent Clean Energy by 2045.

On September 10, 2018, Governor Jerry Brown signed Senate Bill 100 into law. This bill requires the State of California to achieve 100 percent clean and renewable energy by 2045. Governor Brown also signed an executive order establishing that California’s new statewide goal to achieve carbon neutrality by no later than 2045. Current law requires that the State achieve 50 percent carbon neutrality by 2030. The ambitious modification increases from 50 percent to 60 percent by 2030, and doubles that 50 percent goal by requiring that renewable energy and zero-carbon resources supply 100 percent of electricity for California end-use customers and state agencies by 2045. California is only the second state after Hawaii to require that all of its energy come from clean renewable sources.

The California Air Resources Board will work with state agencies to develop a framework for implementing and measuring carbon neutrality goals. State agencies will request the support of colleges, businesses, communities, and others to help California obtain all of its energy from clean sources.

We anticipate that the State will request that districts assist it in achieving these goals by spreading the word across their communities and setting an example by achieving carbon neutrality for their own campuses. Districts can get a head start on these statewide requirements by installing solar panels or implementing other proven methods of producing clean and eligible renewable energy resources. Districts should ensure they continue to comply with statutory requirements for awarding contracts to renewable energy resources companies and have the appropriate protections and assurances in place when entering into contracts with these companies.

Note: We would be happy to assist districts in all their clean and renewable energy resource needs. Our attorneys include a LEED Green Associate, an accreditation by LEED as a professional with extensive knowledge of green design, construction, and operations.

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