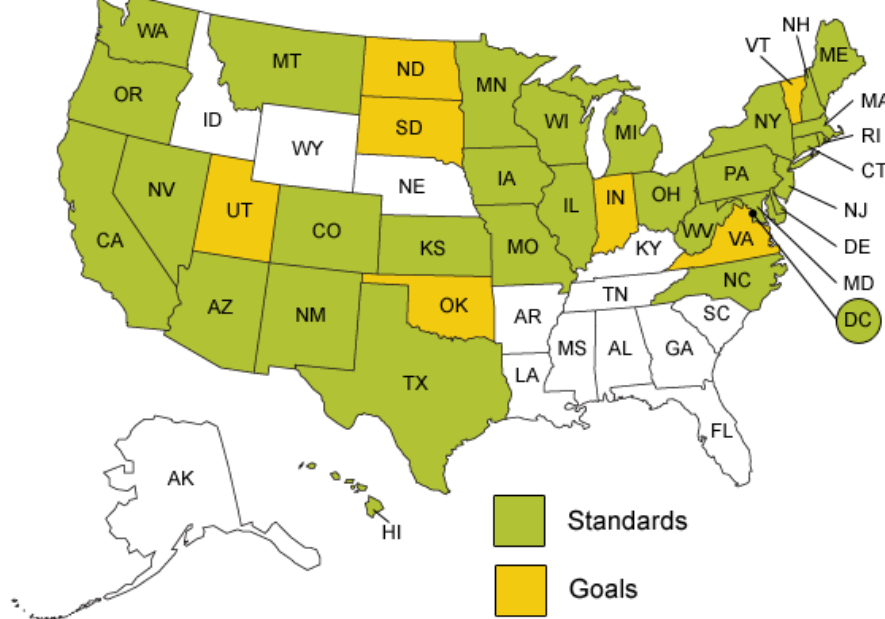


The Washington Post had a story over the weekend about the concerted campaign by the fossil fuel industry to rollback state laws favoring renewable energy. This effort was also the subject of an editorial in the [Sunday Times](#). So far, this effort hasn't gained real legislative traction. The story attributes this failure to the growth of the renewable energy industry as a political force. I agree that this is part of the political dynamic. So is the general public popularity of renewable energy, even among people who don't believe in climate change. But it's important to see that the rollback effort begins at a considerable disadvantage for geographic reasons.

We can start to see this by looking at a map of states with [renewable portfolio standards](#):

States with Renewable Portfolio Standards (mandatory) or Goals (voluntary), January 2012



The trouble, from the perspective of repeal advocates, is that many of the areas of strongest Republican strength don't have renewable portfolio standards in the first place. For instance, according to a recent [article](#) in the NY Times, 40% of Republican voters live in Southern states, which generally don't have an existing RPS.

This map from the same article shows areas of Republican dominance, where Obama got less than 20% of the white vote:

