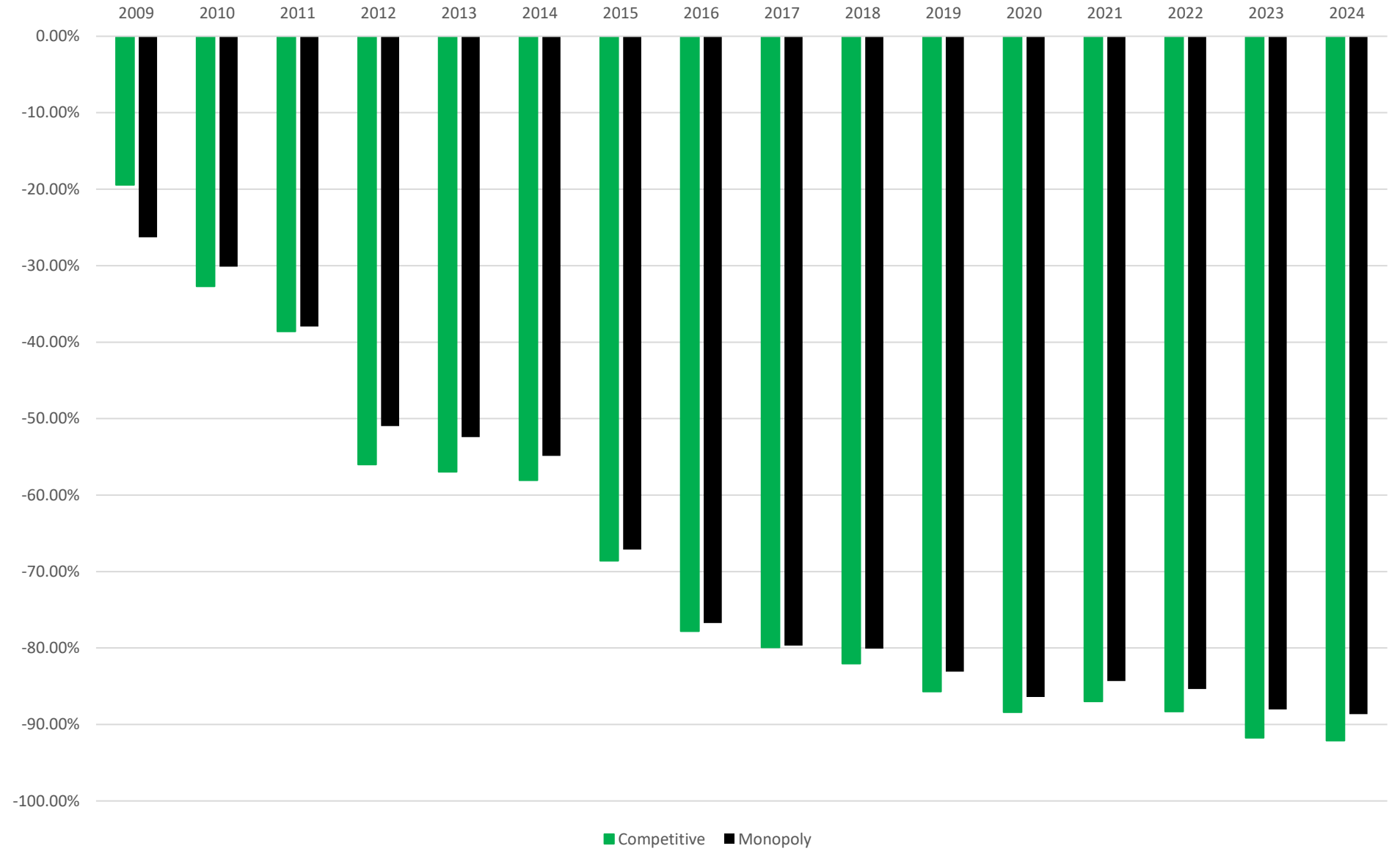
# % Change (from 2008 to 2024) in $SO_2$ Emissions Attributable to Electric Generation




Retail Energy Supply Association

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This information demonstrates that there is little discernable difference between the decrease in $SO_2$ emissions attributable to electric generation in competitive jurisdictions as compared to monopoly states. This is noteworthy because a common argument is that without securitization payments* to a vertically-integrated monopoly as an incentive to shutter their $SO_2$-emitting power plants, sulfur dioxide emission reductions will not happen as rapidly. Meanwhile, competitive power markets are achieving this level of sulfur dioxide reduction without providing a guaranteed rate of return on renewable assets, which are afforded to the IOUs in monopoly states. This data demonstrates that the market-based forces are equally effective at lowering sulfur dioxide emissions without resorting to these two characteristics of the monopoly model.

*: Securitization payments: If a power plant owned by an IOU (in a monopoly state) were to shut down before the projected life cycle (previously approved in the rate case), for reasons such as decarbonization efforts, the consumers would pay the IOU for a period to represent some, or all, of the lost rate of return.



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