



Energy

What is Green-e Energy?

Green-e Energy is the nation's leading independent certification and verification program for renewable energy. It is a voluntary consumer-protection program that certifies superior renewable energy options offered by utilities and marketers in the voluntary renewable energy market. It is administered by Center for Resource Solutions, a nonprofit based in San Francisco, CA.

All Green-e Energy requirements and auditing protocols are publicly available and can be found at www.green-e.org/energy.

Green-e Energy is the nation's leading certification program for renewable energy. For over two decades, Green-e Energy has provided oversight for voluntary renewable energy transactions in North America.

Renewable energy is the future

Green-e Energy provides important assurances to consumers and businesses that they are reducing the environmental impact of their electricity use. Certified renewable energy—along with energy efficiency—are the most effective tools we have today to accomplish this. Green-e Energy was established in 1997 in order to provide consumer protection through clear guidelines, disclosures, and standards. Green-e Energy is the most rigorous and respected consumer protection program for renewable energy in North America, with a transparent, published standard and hundreds of stakeholders participating in setting and regularly revising that standard.

The renewable energy that Green-e Energy certifies goes through a thorough verification process to ensure that it:

is from new projects. It's important that renewable energy certificates (RECs) support new projects built for the voluntary market, not to satisfy a state or federal requirement. That's because consumers who are buying renewable energy want their money to go toward encouraging new renewable energy generation. Green-e Energy Certified RECs come from new facilities built to serve this voluntary market.

is verified. Sellers of Green-e Energy Certified renewable energy are reviewed twice a year to ensure that they live up to their advertising and marketing claims, and that their customers are getting what they paid for. Certified energy is accounted for and tracked through the annual Green-e Energy verification audit process.

has not been double-counted. Certified renewable energy sold to a consumer cannot also be counted toward a state's renewable energy goal (a renewable portfolio standard, for example). Renewable energy must only be attributed to the individual customer purchasing it. >>>

Green-e Energy certified retail sales of over 44 million megawatt-hours (MWh) in 2015, enough to power over a quarter of U.S. households for a month. Green-e currently certifies 1.2% of the total U.S. electricity mix, with nearly half of the installed wind capacity in the U.S. participating in Green-e Energy certified transactions.

Green-e Energy criteria for certified products

The Green-e Energy National Standard identifies many criteria renewable energy must meet to be certified. Electricity must come from eligible sources of supply, like wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, or low-impact hydropower. Only new renewable facilities can be used, ones built in the last 15 years. Electricity can't be used to fulfill a state renewable energy goal, and can't be "double counted" towards that goal. And marketing to consumers must be accurate. Green-e Energy performs a marketing compliance review twice a year to ensure that what is promised is delivered.

The numbers are in

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In 2015, Green-e certified 1.2% of the total U.S. electricity mix, with over half of the installed wind capacity in the U.S. participating in Green-e Energy certified transactions.

Over 331,000 MWh came from solar generation, a nearly 300% increase over 2014.

Over 827,000 retail customers purchased Green-e certified renewable energy in 2015, including 36,000 businesses.

Find out more

For more information about Green-e Energy, go to www.green-e.org/energy or contact us at 415-561-2100 or energy@green-e.org.

Brought to you by Center for Resource Solutions (CRS). CRS creates policy and market solutions to advance sustainable energy. Visit us at www.resource-solutions.org.



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