



Appendix D:  
Green-e Renewable Energy Certification Program  
*National Standard Version 1.4*

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## I. INTRODUCTION

This is the Green-e National Standard for Renewable Electricity Products in all regions of the United States. The following criteria apply to all Green-e certified products (Renewable Energy Certificates, utility green pricing programs, and competitive market electricity products). Additional details about the Green-e certification criteria, the application process, verification protocol, marketing compliance review, etc. can be found in the Green-e Code of Conduct and Customer Disclosure Requirements, available on our website [www.green-e.org](http://www.green-e.org).

## II. ELIGIBLE SOURCES OF SUPPLY

### *A. Definition of Eligible Renewables*

The following types of renewable energy are eligible to supply Green-e certified products:

- 1) Solar Electric;
- 2) Wind;
- 3) Geothermal;
- 4) Hydropower from new generation capacity on a non-impoundment or new generation capacity on an existing impoundment that meets one or more of the following conditions:
  - a) The hydropower facility is certified by the Low Impact Hydropower Institute;
  - b) The facility is a run-of-the-river hydropower facility with a total rated nameplate capacity equal to or less than 5 MW. Multiple turbines will not be counted separately and cannot add up to more than a 5 MW nameplate capacity; or
  - c) The hydropower facility consists of a turbine in a pipeline or a turbine in an irrigation canal.

The Board will consider on a case-by-case basis new incremental capacity on an existing dam, where the “new” output is equal to or less than 5 megawatts.

Green-e will not certify renewables from new impoundments of water.

Green-e will consider adopting ocean-based resources and will review these technologies as they mature and as practical application reaches near term.

- 5) Solid, liquid, and gaseous forms of Biomass from the following fuels:
  - a) All woody waste;<sup>1</sup>
  - b) All agricultural crops or waste;
  - c) All animal and other organic waste;
  - d) All energy crops;
  - e) Landfill gas and wastewater methane; and
  - f) Municipal Solid Waste is eligible if it is first converted to a clean burning fuel that is then used to generate electricity. The solid waste conversion facility for converting the municipal solid waste to a clean burning fuel must meet the following criteria<sup>2</sup>:

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<sup>1</sup> Includes “black liquor” from pulp and paper processing, mill residues, industrial waste wood, and waste wood from woodworking or wood processing, so long as the wood is not chemically treated or coated.

- i. The facility uses a non-combustion thermal process to convert the municipal solid waste to a clean burning fuel.
- ii. The technology is designed to produce no discharges of air contaminants or emissions, including greenhouse gases.
- iii. The technology produces no discharges to surface or groundwaters.
- iv. The technology produces no hazardous wastes.
- v. To the maximum extent feasible, the technology removes all recyclable materials, including plastics, and marketable green waste compostable materials from the solid waste stream prior to the conversion process and the owner or operator of the facility certifies that those materials will be recycled or composted.
- vi. The facility complies with all applicable laws, regulations, and ordinances.

Third-party verification that an MSW facility has met these criteria is required in order for the electricity or RECs from a facility to be used in a Green-e certified product. The California Energy Commission can provide this verification in California and TerraChoice, an environmental consulting firm, which provides facility verification services ([www.terrachoice.com](http://www.terrachoice.com)), may be able to provide this service in other regions. Facilities may also petition Green-e to allow an alternative third-party to perform this verification if that party meets appropriate standards.

Biomass resources excluded from eligibility include:

- a) Wood that has been coated with paints, plastics, or formica; and
- b) Wood that has been treated for preservation with materials containing halogens, chlorine or halide compounds like CCA-treated materials, or arsenic. (CCA = chromated copper arsenate)

Qualified wood fuels may contain de minimis quantities (less than 1% of total wood fuel) of the above excluded contaminants.

- 6) Biodiesel (B100) that is used to generate electricity is eligible for Green-e. Biodiesel blended with petroleum diesel is permitted if all of the following conditions are met:
- a) The biodiesel is separately measured (and verified) from the petroleum diesel; and
  - b) Contracts are in place to allow CRS to verify that the biodiesel was converted to electricity.

Only the amount of electricity generated from the biodiesel may be counted as part of a Green-e certified product.

- 7) Fuel cells are eligible only if powered by hydrogen derived from any of the above eligible renewable resources. (see section II.E.7)

### ***B. Co-firing of Biomass with Non-Renewables***

Co-firing of eligible forms of biomass with non-renewables is permitted if at least one of the following conditions is met:

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<sup>2</sup> Criteria adapted from the California's "Renewables Portfolio Standard Eligibility Guidebook, August 2004. This guidebook can be downloaded at: [http://www.energy.ca.gov/portfolio/documents/guidebooks/2004-08-20\\_500-04-002F1.PDF](http://www.energy.ca.gov/portfolio/documents/guidebooks/2004-08-20_500-04-002F1.PDF).

- 1) The facility is located in an electric system control area that makes use of a generation tracking system (e.g., NEGIS, PJM-GATS, WREGIS) that is fully capable of accurately measuring and reporting the differentiated (biomass-fired and non-biomass-fired) electrical output from the facility; or,
- 2) The biomass is in a gaseous or liquid state, is separately metered and there are contracts in place to verify that the biomass portion was converted to electricity; or
- 3) Facilities that do not meet either of the criteria above may be eligible subject to a case-by-case review by the Green-e Governance Board. The methodology presented to Green-e must demonstrate that the Btu value of the electrical output from the facility is attributed to the eligible biomass fuel. Some of the criteria that the Board will consider in making a decision are:
  - a) Whether the facility was modified to accept biomass fuel;
  - b) Whether there is an independent entity involved in verifying or determining the appropriate measurement; and
  - c) Whether there is a way to determine and ensure the net electricity increment being sold as "renewable" can be attributed to eligible biomass fuel.

The Board would prefer a verification methodology that is brought forth by the Power Marketers Advisory Committee (PMAC) and Utility Green Pricing Advisory Committee (UGPAC) that could be applied universally.

Only the amount of electricity generated from the eligible biomass may count towards the Green-e criteria.

### ***C. Emissions Limits on Biomass***

All facilities must be in compliance with all state and/or federal laws/rules regarding emissions. For facilities subject to New Source Review (NSR), the facility must be compliant with all applicable regional and state standards pertaining to NSR.

*(Please note: For other facilities, the Green-e Board intends to adopt a comparable standard for biomass generators that are not subject to NSR. Stakeholders and generators are invited to provide CRS with emissions and sustainability criteria they feel are appropriate, which will be shared with the Green-e Board.)*

### ***D. Emissions Criteria for the Non-Renewable Portion of a Green-e Product***

Some renewable electricity products do not meet 100% of a customer's electricity load and/or will contain non-renewable energy. The emission rates per kWh for SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, and CO<sub>2</sub> from the non-renewable portion of the eligible product may not exceed customer's average utility, state or regional power emissions rates. Rates are calculated from the latest available EPA EGRID data, unless the regional system administrator, PUC or other authority makes more up-to-date information available. The product may not include any specific purchases of nuclear power in the non-renewable portion of the product other than what is contained in any system power purchase (i.e. the product may not include differentiated nuclear power). A utility's or power pool's system mix may be used to satisfy the non-renewable portion of a Green-e certified product.

## **E. New Renewables**

Only new renewables are eligible to meet Green-e standards. The term "new" is defined to include any eligible renewable facility beginning operation or repowered after January 1, 1997. An eligible new renewable generation facility must meet at least one of the following conditions:

- 1) Placed in operation (generating electricity) on or after January 1, 1997;
- 2) Repowered on or after January 1, 1997 such that at 80% of the fair market value of the project derives from new generation equipment installed as part of the repowering;
- 3) A separable improvement to or enhancement of an existing operating facility that was first placed in operation prior to January 1, 1997, such that the proposed incremental generation is contractually available for sale and metered separate from the existing generation at the facility;
- 4) A biomass co-firing facility that meets all requirements for biomass co-firing outlined in section II.B. above and began co-firing non-eligible fuels with eligible biomass as defined in II.A. above on or after January 1, 1997;
- 5) A 100 percent switch from a non-eligible fuel to an eligible fuel on or after January 1, 1997;
- 6) A separately metered landfill gas resource that was not being used to generate electricity prior to January 1, 1997; and/or
- 7) A fuel cell that began generating electricity on or after January 1, 1997. The hydrogen powering the fuel cell must be derived from a facility that meets the resource eligibility requirements described in section II.A. above. The renewable resource facility that produces the fuel from which the hydrogen is derived does not need to meet the new date criteria but does need to meet Green-e resource definitions (section II.A).

Any enhancement of fuel source that increases generation at an existing facility, without the construction of a new or repowered, separately metered generating unit, is not eligible to participate, with the exception of new landfill gas resources identified in (5) above. An eligible "new renewable" must qualify as an "eligible renewable resource" as described herein.

*Please Note: Green-e plans to consider in 2007 adopting a policy articulating the number of years a facility will be treated as "new". We will solicit stakeholder feedback on this issue.*

## **F. Energy Storage**

Energy storage systems or plants, including pumped hydroelectric storage, battery storage, compressed air energy storage, superconducting magnetic energy storage, flywheels, and super capacitors, are not energy resources. While each of these storage technologies may play an important future role in managing the delivery of non-dispatchable renewable energy, they are not in themselves a renewable energy resource. Therefore, these storage technologies themselves are not qualifying sources of renewable generation.

## **G. Parasitic Load**

Renewable energy consumed as parasitic load of an eligible facility is not eligible for use in a Green-e certified product. Parasitic load is a load that contributes to the process of electricity generation.

### III. PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS

#### **A. Minimum Purchase Quantity**

Green-e certified products sold to residential customers must contain at least the minimum amounts of Green-e eligible renewable energy described below.

- 1) Percentage-of-Use Products: Retail electricity offerings must offset at least 25% of a residential customer's electricity usage with new renewables above and beyond any state mandated Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) renewable amount. If a marketer or utility offers the option to offset less than 50% of a residential customer's electricity use, they must also offer a 100% option to residential customers.
- 2) Block Products: Electricity products sold as block products must be 100% Green-e eligible renewables in a minimum size of 100 kWh/month.

Green-e certified products sold to non-residential customers have no minimum purchase quantity requirement. However, commercial purchasers interested in using the Green-e logo to promote their purchase must meet the requirements of the Consumer Labeling Program: <http://www.green-e.org/clp/>.

#### **B. Vintage of Eligible Renewables**

A Green-e certified product may include only renewables that are generated in the calendar year in which the product is sold, the first three months of the following calendar year, or the last six months of the prior calendar year.

#### **C. Fully Aggregated Renewables**

Green-e only certifies renewable energy products that are fully aggregated to the extent possible under law.

Green-e certified MWhs (electricity or REC) must contain all the greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction benefits, including carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) reduction benefits, associated with the MWh of renewable electricity when it was generated.

Emission reductions of capped and traded pollutants where allowances are not routinely assigned to renewable electricity generators, which include sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) nationally, mercury (Hg) nationally, and the oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>) regionally, are not required to be included in Green-e Certified renewable electricity or RECs.

#### **D. Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) Renewables, Other Mandated Renewables, and Financial Incentives**

Green-e certified products must be comprised of eligible renewable generation over and above anything required by state or federal RPS requirements, legislation, or settlement agreements. If a utility or electricity marketer is subject to an RPS or other mandate or agreement, they must comply with it regardless of the existence of a voluntary market for renewable energy. If a participant in the Green-e program is determined to be out of compliance with these obligations, or is selling renewables from a mandated facility, that may be grounds for decertification from Green-e.

Renewable energy or RECs may NOT be used in a Green-e certified product under the following circumstances:

- 1) The REC or the electricity from which the RECs are derived is being used simultaneously to meet a local, state, or federal energy mandate or other legal requirement; or
- 2) The RECs are derived from a renewable facility that has been mandated by a local, state, or federal government agency or was required under any legal requirement.

The sole exception to (1) and (2) is a facility that is generating renewable energy in excess of the government mandate or other legal contract, in which case that excess (either renewable electricity or the RECs associated with the renewable electricity) may be used in a Green-e certified product.

If the product meets 100% of a customer's electricity use with eligible renewables, Green-e allows a percentage of a product's content to be satisfied by renewable portfolio standard (RPS) state-mandated renewables up to the percentage RPS requirement. For example, if the RPS is set at 5% (either company based or product based), up to 5% of the Green-e product can be satisfied with renewable power purchased to meet a mandated RPS requirement. This applies only to products that meet 100% of a customer's electricity use with Green-e eligible renewables.

RECs or renewable energy from renewable generating facilities that obtain tax or financial incentive payments are eligible under Green-e (to the extent allowed by law, regulation, and contract language governing the tax or financial incentives program).

### ***E. Double Counting and Use of Utility Resources***

Eligible RECs or renewable energy can be used once and only once; making a claim (e.g. stating "we buy wind power") is one example of a 'use' that results in retirement. Renewable energy or RECs (or the renewable or environmental attributes incorporated in that REC) that can be legitimately claimed by another party may NOT be used in Green-e REC products.<sup>3</sup> Examples of prohibited double uses include, but are not limited to:

- 1) When the same REC is sold by one party to more than one party, or any case where another party has a conflicting contract for the RECs or the renewable electricity;
- 2) When the same REC is claimed by more than one party, including any expressed or implied environmental claims made pursuant to electricity coming from a renewable energy resource, environmental labeling or disclosure requirements. This includes representing the energy from which RECs are derived as renewable in calculating another entity's product or portfolio resource mix for the purposes of marketing or disclosure;

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<sup>3</sup> If the owner of a renewable generation facility is reporting direct greenhouse gas emissions in a legally binding voluntary or regulated cap-and-trade program, this constitutes a claim of the environmental attributes of the renewable generation. Therefore, renewable energy facilities that are owned by entities participating in a legally binding greenhouse gas cap-and-trade program are ineligible for Green-e. Green-e may grant exceptions on a case-by-case basis if the cap-and-trade program has an accounting mechanism that assures that the GHG emissions benefits of renewable electricity and/or RECs are not double counted or double claimed.

- 3) When the same REC is used by an electricity provider or utility to meet an environmental mandate, such as an RPS, and is also used to satisfy customer sales under Green-e; or
- 4) Use of one or more attributes of the renewable energy or REC by another party (See Section III.C. "Fully Aggregated Renewables" for details). This includes when a REC is simultaneously sold to represent 'renewable electricity' to one party, and one or more Attributes associated with the same MWh of generation (such as CO2 reduction) are also sold, to another party.

When a utility is involved in a REC transaction, either as a generator, a purchaser of RECs, or a purchaser of the commodity electricity from which the RECs have been derived, the local utility commissions in the states where the electricity was generated and where the electricity is sold must be notified of the transactions and, in some cases, of the money received by the utility.

#### ***F. Customer-Sited Facilities***

On-grid customer sited (behind the meter) facilities that meet the eligible renewables definition are eligible sources for Green-e. Customer sited off-grid renewables are not eligible. Any generation unit less than or equal to 10 kW may use a conservative engineering estimate of output. CRS must pre-approve the estimation methodology. Systems over 10 kW must be metered.

Customer-sited generators (such as net-metered solar) cannot claim to be selling/supplying renewable electricity if they sell the RECs (in part or in whole) separately.

#### ***G. Canadian-Sited Facilities and RECs sold into Canada***

RECs or electricity from Canadian-sited facilities that meet the eligible renewable definition are eligible if they are generated at facilities certified by the EcoLogo<sup>M</sup> program, the Canadian government's environmental certification program (<http://www.environmentalchoice.com/>).

Green-e will certify RECs or electricity generated at facilities located in the U.S. to be sold into Canada provided that they meet the eligible renewable definition and the facility is certified by the EcoLogo<sup>M</sup> program. De minimis amounts of sales to Canadian customers from facilities that are not EcoLogo<sup>M</sup> participants will be tolerated.

## **IV. ADDITIONAL CRITERIA FOR COMPETITIVE ELECTRICITY AND UTILITY GREEN PRICING PRODUCTS**

### ***A. Geographic Eligibility for Electricity Products<sup>4</sup>***

For electricity products (i.e. products used to meet a customer's electricity needs), provider can source from one or more of the following geographic boundaries:

- a) The state where the customer is located; and/or

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<sup>4</sup> For Green-e certified products sold in Connecticut under the CT DPUC ATSO Program, renewable resources can be sourced from eligible renewable facilities located in New England, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania and/or Maryland consistent with the CT DPUC ATSO rules. This change will remain in effect as long as the CT DPUC ATSO rules are in effect.

- b) The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) region, Independent System Operator (ISO), Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) or Balancing Authority Area of the customer being served; and/or
- c) An adjacent NERC, ISO, RTO or Balancing Authority Area region where the electricity, bundled with a REC, is wheeled into the respective region of the customer being served.

### ***B. Use of Renewable Energy Certificates in an Electricity Product***

Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) can be combined with nonrenewable power to serve green electricity customers under the following conditions:

- a) The Renewable Energy Certificates must come from the defined geographic boundary of the customer being served as noted above if they are to be marketed as an “electricity” product;
- b) The emission rates per kWh for SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, and CO<sub>2</sub> for the underlying electricity must be at or below the customer’s average utility, state or regional power emissions rates; and,
- c) The underlying electricity cannot include any specific purchases of nuclear power in the non-renewable portion of the product other than what is contained in any system power purchase (i.e. the product may not include differentiated nuclear power).

If the RECs are sourced from outside the defined geographic boundary defined in Section IV.A. (Geographic Eligibility for Electricity Products), the product will need to be marketed as a REC product and contain the appropriate disclosure language (see Green-e Code of Conduct and Customer Disclosure Requirements).

## **V. ADDITIONAL CRITERIA FOR UTILITY GREEN PRICING PRODUCTS**

### ***A. Product Pricing***

In no case should the above market costs of the energy used directly for a certified utility green pricing program be allocated to customers who are non-participants in the program. If such costs are related to public policy initiatives deemed acceptable by their regulators, a utility may appeal to the Green-e Board for approval.

### ***B. Marketing and Performance Targets***

If local stakeholders believe a certified program is not receiving sufficient marketing support, the stakeholders can petition CRS to require that the utility offering the program provide additional information, such as overall marketing expenditures for the certified program. All information provided by participating utilities to fulfill this criterion will be treated as confidential by the Center for Resource Solutions. The Board reserves the right to make case-by-case determinations on the adequacy of individual marketing efforts made by participating utilities.

### ***C. Waitlists***

In the event that a utility green pricing program becomes fully subscribed, consumers may have to be placed on a waiting list before they can officially subscribe to a green pricing program. If green pricing program providers have a waiting list, the waiting period must not last more than

one year from when the customer seeks to join the green pricing program. Should the green pricing program provider accrue a waiting list of interested participants, the provider shall send a stand-alone letter to the waiting list on a semi-annual basis explaining why the list is not being served and what steps the provider plans to take to rectify the supply/demand imbalance. In the event that the program provider holds a waiting list, it shall notify CRS immediately stating the reasons for the insufficient supply and actions planned to remedy the situation. In the event of a semi-annual wait-list notification, the provider shall notify CRS of the event and provide the number of customers on the waiting list. Enrolling but not serving customers for more than one year may be grounds for removing certification.

#### ***D. Regulatory Approval***

Certification is only available to programs that have been approved by the appropriate regulatory or oversight body with jurisdiction over the program prior to the program's nomination for certification.

#### ***E. Programs Serving Multiple Utilities (Hub and Spoke)***

Some utilities are offering green pricing to customers in conjunction with other local utilities. In one such model, there is a central body (hub) that develops a renewable energy product that is marketed by more than one utility (spokes). For example, the output of a wind turbine, a landfill gas facility, and a solar array could be bundled into one product and sold by all of the members of a transmission and distribution cooperative. Since there is a single product and a single point of contact (the hub), Green-e is willing to treat this as one certification regardless of the number of vendors selling the product so long as they meet all of the conditions below.

- 1) In order to qualify for Green-e certification using the hub and spoke model, the product must:
  - a) Contain exactly the same mix of resources for each participating vendor. The same facilities must be used and shared equally among customers. In other words, if the customers of one utility in the Midwest are purchasing 50% wind from Minnesota and 50% biomass from Wisconsin, then all participating vendors must sell the same mix of renewables from the same resources. That way Green-e can do a single verification audit. All of the renewable energy supply for the product must be sourced from the hub.
  - b) Be sold within the same regional area. To receive hub-and-spoke treatment from Green-e the product resources must be sited in the same area of the country as the customer. The resources do not have to be located all in the same state, but must be in the same region (see section above; Geographic Boundaries for Sourcing Eligible Electricity) as the customers.
  - c) Utilize the same marketing materials for each participating vendor. All participating vendors must use the same marketing materials. Individual utility vendors may brand the marketing materials. However, marketing materials must be consistent across the product service territory so Green-e can do a single marketing compliance review. Limited exceptions to this rule will be tolerated so long as Green-e is notified.
  - d) Undergo a single verification process audit. Green-e program staff must have a single auditor as point of contact. The auditor must have access to customer records of all participating vendors.

- 2) Obligations of the Hub and Spoke Facilitator (the Hub):

- a) Offer the exact same product to all participating vendors.
- b) Provide a single point of contact for Green-e.
- c) Undergo a single annual verification process audit.
- d) Undergo single marketing compliance reviews.
- e) Ensure that all requirements of Green-e certification are met.
- f) Keep Green-e informed at all times regarding which distributors are marketing the product.

### 3) Obligations of the Hub and Spoke Distributors (the Spokes):

- a) Offer the auditor access to billing records.
- b) Abide by the Green-e Code of Conduct.
- c) Meet the Green-e Customer Disclosure Requirements, which include sending a system mix disclosure to all customers, regardless of their participation in the green pricing program.

There is a single annual fee assessed per product regardless of the number of participating vendors.

## VI. REVISIONS TO THIS STANDARD

This Green-e National Standard is considered a dynamic document and may change over time to accommodate changes in the renewable energy marketplace, policy changes that affect renewable energy, and/or innovations in renewable energy technology. For any substantial changes to the Green-e certification criteria document, the Green-e Program commits that:

1. Stakeholders will be solicited in advance of Green-e Governance Board meetings for input on substantive policy change issues; and
2. At least one year of notice (following the date of announcement of Board approval) will be granted to utilities, green power marketers and other stakeholders before the substantive changes go into effect, unless a more timely change is necessary to respond to a significant and imminent problem threatening the integrity of green power markets.

Marketers of Green-e certified products may petition Green-e for an exemption from specific changes in the criteria if they can document current contracts or other conditions that prevent them from meeting the change. Products that are granted criteria exemptions will be noted on the Green-e web site, and the exemption must be noted to customers in the Terms and Conditions in a clear manner (e.g. "25% of the renewable energy content of this product is supplied by facilities put online prior to 1997").

Changes that are not limiting to marketers of Green-e certified products (i.e. will impose no burden on currently certified products) or need to be implemented in the short term to accommodate external policy changes may take effect immediately upon Board approval.