

RGGI Off-the-Top under Green-e Energy

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Energy

Consumer Protection and Certification for Voluntary Renewables Purchases

- Established in 1997
- Certification of three RE product types:
 - Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs)
 - Utility green pricing programs
 - Green electricity in deregulated states
- Covers all 50 states and Canada

Governance

- Independent Governance Board
 - Natural Resources Defense Council
 - Union of Concerned Scientists
 - National Renewable Energy Laboratory
 - Several other environmental and industry leaders
- All standards and policies developed through open stakeholder consultations
- Associate Member of the International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labeling (ISEAL) Alliance

Marketshare

- In 2007 Green-e Energy certified:
 - Over 15 million MWh of voluntary retail and wholesale transactions
 - About half of all voluntary retail RE sales
 - Over 70% of voluntary retail REC sales
- Works with over 200 marketers, utilities and ESPs
- Referenced in LEED renewable energy standard
- Purchasers can be recognized by EPA Green Power Partnership and Green-e Marketplace

Fully-Aggregated Renewable MWhs

- Green-e Energy Certified renewable MWh must contain all benefits of their generation to the extent allowable by law
 - SO₂ is nationally capped, so it cannot be included
 - Under similarly-structured CO₂ cap, RE would not affect cap
- Consumers buy RECs for their emissions avoidance value, particularly CO₂ avoidance
 - RECs stripped of CO₂ (like a UK ROC) would have little appeal to consumers

RGGI and Green-e Energy Verification

- Sales agreement is reached between counterparties
- RECs are retired in NEGIS
 - Retirement Reason must mention Green-e Energy and Reporting Year (i.e. 'Green-e Energy RY2009')
 - Retirement Reason may also need to contain additional information to satisfy state DEP

Verification, continued

- Seller or buyer reports sale to DEP
 - Who must report could vary by state, and should be spelled out in sale contract
- DEP retires allowances
- Seller delivers both NEGIS report and DEP retirement confirmation to Green-e Energy

Considerations and Next Steps

- Timing of RGGI / DEP reporting
 - Green-e Energy will work with RGGI deadlines
- Watch states' implementation of off-the-top rule
- Formalize and release verification rules as soon as possible
 - Feedback and suggestions from call participants is welcome
- Continue to communicate the importance of working within RGGI rules to renewable energy sellers in Green-e Energy

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