



Green-e Energy Federal Option Product FAQs

Q.: Why did Green-e Energy introduce a Federal Option product?

A.: On March 19, 2015, President Obama issued Executive Order 13693, “Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade.” It mandates all “executive departments and agencies” begin meeting minimum 10% renewable energy procurement goals in fiscal year 2016, which begins on October 1st, 2015, and increasing to 30% by 2025. Those uses that are impacted are “building electric energy and thermal energy” and “total amount of building electric energy consumed.” The manner in which this goal may be achieved is by “installing agency-funded renewable energy on site at Federal facilities and retaining corresponding renewable energy certificates (RECs) or obtaining equal value replacement RECs”, “contracting for the purchase of energy that includes the installation of renewable energy on site at a Federal facility or off site from a Federal facility and the retention of corresponding RECs or obtaining equal value replacement RECs for the term of the contract”, “purchasing electricity and corresponding RECs or obtaining equal value replacement RECs”, and/or “purchasing RECs”.

This order applies only to “the activities, personnel, resources, and facilities of the agency that are located within the United States” but gives the agency head the option to extend the rule to cover overseas operations. The appointed enforcement body, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), has developed procurement guidelines for departments and agencies that are incorporated into the Green-e Energy Federal Option product. This allows Green-e Energy Participants who choose to create a new Federal Option product, to have an additional “federal-ready,” product option available, meaning that a Participant’s client may rest assured that they are receiving supply that meets CEQ guidelines and offers all of the other Green-e Energy risk assurance and consumer protection benefits.

To facilitate federal procurement, Green-e Energy has created this new product option to assist Participants with an interest in providing resources for this key market. Green-e Energy certified products provide benefits to federal procurement officers, including third-party review, risk reduction, and easing the procurement process as they move forward with meeting their goals.

Q.: How do CEQ’s Procurement Guidelines differ from the Green-e Energy Product Requirements in the Green-e Energy National Standard?

A.: The White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) issued guidance on June 10, 2015 to assist department and agency procurement officers in meeting the Executive Order’s goals. In some cases, Federal eligibility requirements differ from those required by Green-e Energy. Key difference are outlined below.



1. Types of acceptable generation. While the federal guidelines are broader than Green-e Energy's, all Green-e Energy approved types fit into the federal guidelines, "Renewable electric energy is defined in E.O. 13693 as electricity produced or displaced by solar, wind, biomass, landfill gas, ocean (including tidal, wave, current, and thermal), geothermal, geothermal heat pumps, micro turbines, municipal solid waste, or new hydroelectric generation capacity (in service after 1/1/1999) achieved from increased efficiency or additions of new capacity at an existing hydroelectric project." Green-e Energy Federal Option products will be governed by the constraints found in the stricter of either the Green-e Energy National Standard or the Federal procurement requirements. For current Participants, qualifying energy types are identical to other Green-e Energy certified products, with one exception. Green-e Energy Federal Option products may not contain generation from repowered facilities that would otherwise qualify for Green-e until CEQ clarifies that this generation meets federal requirements.
2. New date. CEQ guidance requires that "the electricity shall have been generated by a renewable generator that was placed into service within 10 years prior to the start of the fiscal year in which the agency intends to count the REC". Green-e Energy Federal Option product procurements must follow the federally mandated 10-year new date.
3. Generation date. Because departments and agencies report by fiscal year, the generation date data provided for verification of a Green-e Energy Federal Option product must be more granular. To allow departments and agencies' purchases to qualify under federal guidelines, and Green-e Energy Federal Option Product certification rules, reporting to customers must specify the fiscal quarter (Jan-Mar, Apr-June, July-Sept, Oct-Dec) in addition to the year of generation for all supply provided within a certified sale. This will allow departments and agencies to match generation to the federal calendar year that begins Oct. 1.
4. Location. Federal procurement rules require energy sourced in "the fifty States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands, and associated territorial waters and airspace." Therefore, the Green-e Energy Federal Option product may not source from Green-e Energy eligible sources in Canada and Mexico. Any participant advertising a Green-e Energy Federal Option "national" RECs product can source only in the "lower 48" states.

Q.: How much does it cost to certify a Green-e Energy Federal product?

A.: Participants will not be charged a product fee for their Federal Option product, as long as they have an existing certified product with Green-e Energy. After MWh volumes are reported during verification, normal volumetric fees will apply. Pricing for Participants wishing to certify only a Federal Option product with Green-e Energy are identical to pricing for Participants with only a non-Federal Option product. Review the revised Fee schedule, or speak with your representative for details.



Q.: How do Green-e Energy Federal Option product marketing guidelines differ, if at all, from non-Federal Option product marketing guidelines?

A.: New Federal Option products will require a new Green-e contract, which is subject to the marketing guidelines found in the new Green-e Energy Code of Conduct, released July 24, 2015. This edition of the Code provides additional guidance, and as it relates to your new Federal Option product, will require that you:

1. State the quarter+year of generation in the prospective Product Content Label, and/or in the contract
2. Make a statement in related materials or descriptions of the product that the product follows “Green-e Energy Federal Option product guidelines”
3. Refer and link to the Green-e Energy Federal Option Product web page: www.green-e.org/federal