

SREC + ELECTRICITY = RENEWABLE ENERGY

Protect your clients and grow the market—use best practices when making renewable energy claims. **Renewable Energy Certificates are required to make renewable energy claims.**

SRECs (also known as RECs) Are Required for All Uses of Solar Energy

For every MWh of solar energy generation, a renewable energy certificate (REC) is created. A REC embodies all of the environmental attributes of the generation and can be tracked and traded separately from the underlying electricity.



The Federal Trade Commission Is Cracking Down

“If a marketer generates renewable electricity but sells [RECs]...for all of that electricity, it would be deceptive for the marketer to represent...that it uses renewable energy.”

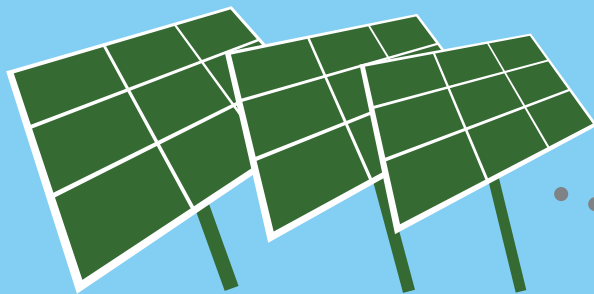
“If a business, including a home business, has solar panels and sells away all the RECs, it loses the right to tell customers it’s using renewable energy.”

“...using the term ‘hosting’ is deceptive when a marketer generates renewable power but has sold all of the renewable attributes of that power.”

35 U.S. STATES AND TERRITORIES RECOGNIZE THE SUPREMACY OF RECs TO DEMONSTRATE COMPLIANCE OF REGULATED ENTITIES WITH STATE LAWS.

Double claims on RECs harm the renewable energy market

When two parties think they own the same MWh of renewable energy, this is a double claim on a single REC. Prevent double claims using REC tracking systems and Green-e certification to establish clear ownership of RECs and validate renewable energy claims.



How RECs Work

With every megawatt-hour of electricity generated from solar, a **REC** is also produced and can be sold separately from the **underlying electricity**. Whoever owns the REC owns the claim to that megawatt-hour of solar energy.



CRS

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Brought to you by Center for Resource Solutions and Green-e.
Learn more about RECs and claims at www.green-e.org/learn.



Green-e is a program of the nonprofit Center for Resource Solutions. The third-party certification program works with **utilities, energy suppliers, REC sellers, communities, generators and project owners** that want to provide renewable energy that meets independent consumer-protection and certification standards.

Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) Best Practices

1. All renewable energy claims require a REC, and each REC can only be used once.
2. Make sure you own and retire RECs when you make a claim about using renewable energy, reducing your carbon footprint, or other benefits conveying the environmental benefits of renewable generation.
3. Be clear in contracts and power purchaser agreements about who owns the REC and can make a claim.
4. Pay attention to how your utility or state deals with REC ownership as it pertains to net-metering and similar programs—where the state is silent on RECs, ownership should be conveyed clearly in contracts.
5. Educate solar panel owners and hosts about whether or not they own the RECs generated and can make a renewable energy claim.
6. Use electronic tracking systems when possible.
7. Get your renewable energy sales and/or claims independently verified.

Green-e Certification Protects The Voluntary Renewable Energy Market

- Certification prevents double counting, and ensures clear REC ownership
- The renewable energy is verified and meets industry best-practices

CRS's Solar Industry Support Activities:

- Certification of solar energy products, including S-RECs
- Driving industry best-practices in the solar industry: see resources below
- Certification for on-site solar and direct solar purchases (PPAs)

Resources

- Visit the Green-e website at www.green-e.org
- "What is a Renewable Energy Certificate?" video: www.youtu.be/opJMrzNauFQ
- *Guidelines for Renewable Energy Claims: Guidance for Consumer and Electricity Providers:* www.green-e.org/learn_re_claims.shtml
- *Best Practices in Public Claims for Green Power Purchases and Sales:* www.green-e.org/learn_re_claims.shtml
- *Best Practices in Public Claims for Solar Photovoltaic Systems:* www.green-e.org/learn_re_claims.shtml
- *The Legal Basis for Renewable Energy Certificates:* www.resource-solutions.org/publications

Contact Us

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