

Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs)

Each MWh of renewable electricity reduces the need for one MWh of conventional electricity, avoiding the greenhouse gas emissions related to conventional electricity generation.

Renewable energy certificates (RECs) allow organizations to reduce the environmental impact of their operations by matching their electricity use with RECs. By purchasing RECs, these organizations help increase demand for renewable energy — encouraging the development of new renewable energy projects and providing project owners with additional revenue that goes beyond selling the project's electricity.

UNDERSTANDING RECS

- + A REC represents the environmental benefits (but not the electricity) associated with one MWh of renewable energy generated and delivered to the power grid.
- + RECs are needed to track renewable energy generation. Once an electron from renewable generation is delivered to the power grid, that electron becomes indistinguishable from an electron from conventional sources. This makes it essentially impossible for an electricity provider to guarantee delivery of only “green” electrons to a home or building.
- + This separation of RECs from the electricity generated allows organizations to claim the benefits of the renewable energy associated with RECs without actually using the electricity.
- + RECs are independently audited by programs such as Green-e Energy® to ensure that only one customer claims credit for each REC and the MWh of renewable electricity generation it represents.

WHO PURCHASES RECS?



BUSINESSES & ORGANIZATIONS

- + To reduce the environmental impact of their energy use
- + To meet company sustainability goals



GREEN BUILDING PROFESSIONALS

- + To qualify for LEED points
- + To mitigate the environmental impact of the electricity used in their buildings



UTILITIES

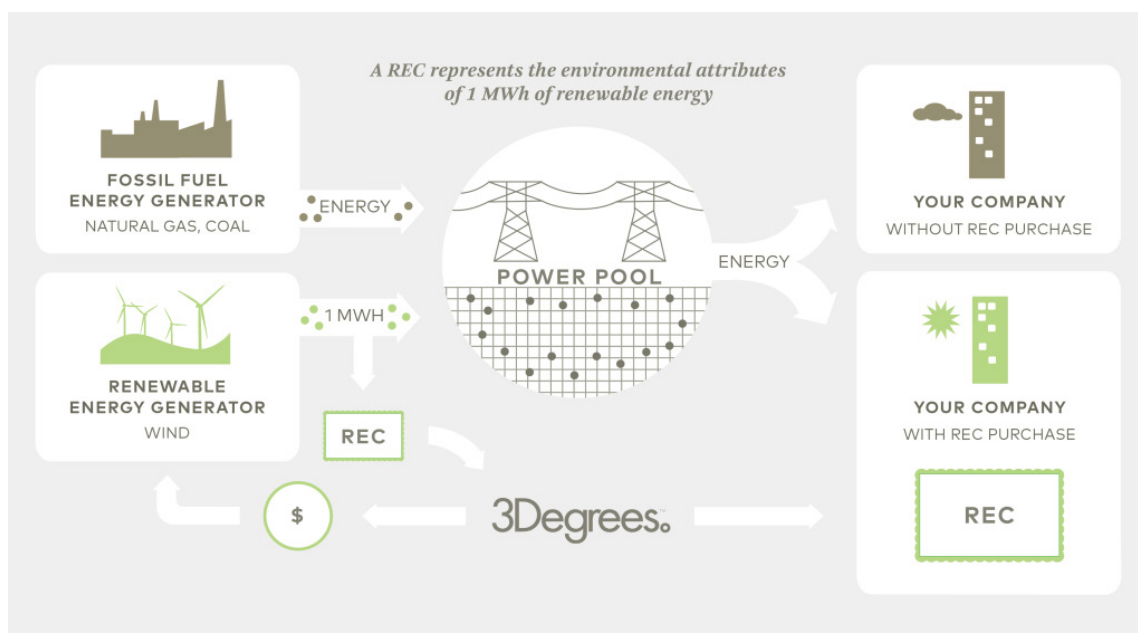
- + To offer their customers green power through voluntary programs
- + To meet state-mandated renewable energy goals

3DEGREES: A CUSTOM APPROACH

At 3Degrees, we work with each client to develop a REC product sourced from renewable energy projects that matter to them — balancing cost, technology and geography. Common RECs we source include:

- + U.S. Green Power RECs — Sourced from U.S. renewable energy projects that use Green-e Energy approved technologies.
- + U.S. Wind Power RECs — Generated at wind farms located throughout the United States.
- + Regional Green Power RECs — Procured from renewable energy projects in specific regions of the United States and Canada.
- + Brighter Schools Solar RECs — Produced by photovoltaic solar panels installed at U.S. public schools.
- + Project-specific RECs — Sourced from a specific renewable energy project.
- + Compliance RECs — Used by utilities to meet a particular state's renewable energy regulatory requirements.

RECS: HOW THEY WORK



GREEN-E® ENERGY

Green-e® Energy is the most stringent and widely-used voluntary REC certification program in the U.S. that sets buyer protection and environmental standards for REC products. The vast majority of RECs 3Degrees sells are Green-e® Energy certified.

