

Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs)

All the Environmental Benefits of Sustainable Energy, Available to Consumers Everywhere

As the 'currency' of renewable energy markets, RECs bring more revenue to project developers and create value for organizational and individual buyers in both compliance and voluntary markets. Since 2000, Sterling Planet has delivered tens of billions of RECs to buyers of all types.

Use of renewable energy for U.S. electricity production is surging, fueled in part by demand for renewable energy certificates. For each megawatt-hour (MWh) of renewable power production, one REC is created. Each REC represents all avoided greenhouse gas emissions and all other environmental benefits of generating electricity from the wind, the sun and other renewable sources instead of conventional fuels.

Clean energy advocates herald renewable energy for its environmental benefits. Other key benefits:

- Sustainability - Renewable resources are infinite.
- Health effects - Reduced emissions clear the air.
- Jobs and the economy - Energy dollars stay close to home, creating jobs and fueling domestic economies.
- Energy security - Greater use of renewable energy reduces dependence on foreign oil.

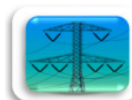
RECs are sold separately from the electrical output of renewable generators (see diagram below). With sales, renewable generators gain additional revenue to help fund existing projects and finance future development. Buyers claim all the environmental benefits of their purchase, with every REC guaranteeing the delivery of 1 MWh of renewable power to the electric grid.

Independent Verification and Certification



RECs are a credible, easy way to track ownership of all environmental attributes and prevent double counting. RECs sold by Sterling Planet are all independently verified, then Green-e® Energy certified. This means that the RECs meet stringent environmental and consumer protection standards set by the nonprofit Center for Resource Solutions, which administers the Green-e program. In some states, regional tracking systems provide an additional layer of assurance.

Compliance REC Markets



RECs help utilities, government agencies and others meet requirements. Today, 29 states have mandates for more renewable energy use, and federal or municipal rules make similar demands. Sterling Planet serves this market with large REC volumes. Clients include EPA, the Air Force and Detroit Edison, which bought RECs to meet Michigan mandates.

Voluntary REC Markets



Companies, colleges, and all types of organizations elect to purchase RECs to reduce their environmental footprint, meet sustainability goals, strengthen brand identity, and reap marketing and PR benefits. Many want to earn points for LEED® green building certification or join the EPA Green Power Partnership. Sterling Planet serves half of the top 30 EPA partners, including #1 Intel and #2 Kohl's Department Stores.

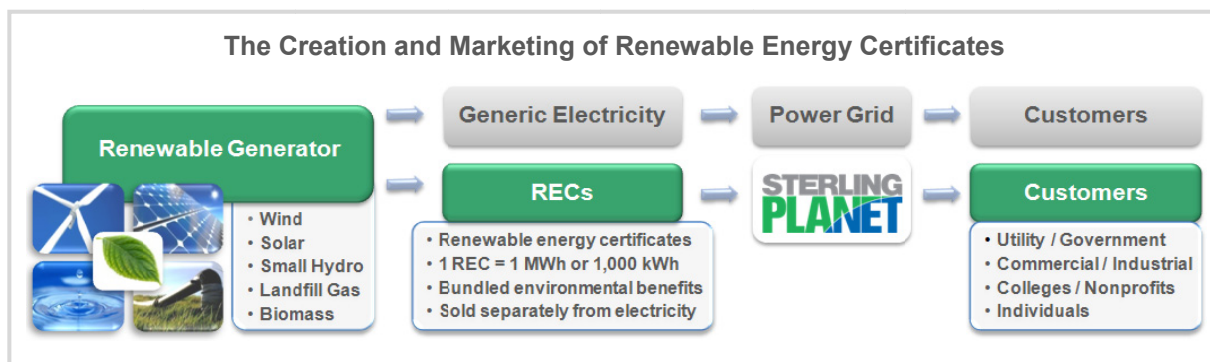
Supply, Outreach and Reinvestment



Sterling Planet RECs come from diverse renewable projects located nationwide. Fixed-price green power (RECs bundled with electricity) is an option. Outreach services include incentives and tools for follow-on green energy enrollments, plus a reinvestment fund for new renewable energy or energy efficiency projects.

Value of RECs from Sterling Planet

- Green-e® Energy certification
- Diverse technologies, with projects nationwide
- Competitively priced RECs from volume leader
- Marketing and public relations support
- Green energy enrollment and outreach services
- Green reinvestment funded by Sterling Planet



Sterling Planet
Twice Recognized
as DOE Renewable
Energy Marketer
of the Year

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