



MAINE GREEN POWER CONNECTION  
GENERATING CHOICE

A project of the Maine Energy  
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# EXPLANATION -- GREEN POWER RECs & SUPPLY

## When you purchase green power, you have two choices -- Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) or Green Supply:

When you buy green power **green supply** (from wind, hydro or solar), you are paying for two things:

- Electricity
- +
- Environmental benefits, such as clean air

Purchasing **renewable energy certificates (RECs)** buys the environmental benefits separately from the electricity:

- You keep your electricity account the same
- Your purchase helps wind, solar and other renewable energy generators offer their power to the grid at a competitive price.
- Clean power displaces dirty power and its greenhouse gas emissions.

*For Example: Imagine a 30 year-old coal plant. Having paid off its initial investment, it can offer electricity to the grid at 6 cents per kWh. Now, imagine a wind generator in the same grid. It was built only a year ago and still has to pay off capital costs. It can only afford to sell electricity for 8 cents per kWh, which is too expensive to compete. When you buy a Renewable Energy Certificate, you pay the wind generator that extra 2 cents per kWh, so it can offer its electricity at a competitive price, 6 cents per kWh.*

**Because Renewable Energy Certificates displace dirty power, they can offset the climate impact of any activity you choose, including flying and driving.**

### Examples of Green Supply Purchases

Over 60 Maine organizations buy green power supply. These include hospitals, such as **York Hospital**, colleges, such as **Colby** and **Unity**, Churches, such as **St. Johns Church** in Bath and dozens of businesses and non-profits.

### Examples of REC Purchases

**Tom's of Maine** is buying certificates from wind to offset its entire electricity use for five years

**Portland Maine** and **North Yarmouth** both bought certificates to make their holiday trees climate neutral

**Maine Businesses for Social Responsibility** and **Physicians for Social Responsibility, Maine Chapter**, have both bought certificates to offset the electricity used by their conference venues.

