



MAINE GREEN POWER CONNECTION
GENERATING CHOICE

A project of the Maine Energy
Investment Corporation

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“HOW TO” GUIDE TO GREEN POWER

When you purchase green power, you have two choices -- renewable energy certificates (RECs) or green supply:

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

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

Purchasing **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.*

Green Supply -- Options for a Residential Customer:

Maine Clean Power

- 100% low-impact hydro from Maine
- About 11.5 cents per kWh (price varies)

Maine Clean Power Plus

- 80% low-impact hydro from Maine, 20% national wind power
- About 12 cents per kWh (price varies)

To sign up, go to www.energymaine.com/mresignup/

- Click on “Signup Now” under Step 3
- Select Central Maine Power or Bangor Hydro customer
- Fill out and submit the form

Online at www.maine.greenpower.org/Guide.htm



Alewives pass up a fish ladder at a hydropower dam in Maine.

- photo by Rebecca Rockefeller

RECs -- Options and Purchasing Information

REC Options:

Bonneville Environmental Foundation "Green Tags"

- Represents current wind and some solar in the Pacific Northwest
- Certified by both Green-e™ and Climate Cool™
- Costs a 2 cents premium* per kWh

Community Energy "New Wind Energy"

- Represents current wind in the Mid-Atlantic grid
- Certified by Green-e™
- Costs a 2.5 cents premium* per kWh

NativeEnergy "Wind Builders"

- Helps generate future wind in the Midwest
- Certified by Climate Cool™
- Costs a .85 cents premium* per kWh or \$12 per ton of CO₂
- Native American majority owned

Purchasing Certificates:

For **Bonneville**, go to www.b-e-f.org/greentags

- Click on "go to carbon calculator"
- Follow the steps to offset your emission
- Use promo code "MEIC06" to make your purchase

For **Community Energy**, go to www.newwindenergy.com

- Click on "Buy Today" in the upper left-hand corner
- Select Maine on the map
- The average Maine household uses 500 kWh a month

For **NativeEnergy** go to www.MaineGreenPower.org/NativeEnergy.html

- Select Carbon Calculator in lower left-hand corner
- Follow the steps to find out your CO₂ emissions
- Select an option on the orange bar to offset your carbon

* Because RECs are a separate transaction from your electricity account and utility bill, this price reflects *additional* cost to your monthly statement

**Questions? Call the Maine Green Power Connection at
1-800-226-7185 or visit www.MaineGreenPower.org**



New Zealand wind farm
- photo by Vanessa Jackson