# Emerging Trends in Utility Green Power Products

October 28, 2015



## Webinar Logistics

- Attendees are muted to reduce background noise.
- Submit questions and comments in writing via the Questions field in the webinar control panel.
- To minimize or maximize the control panel, click on the arrow button at the top left of the tool bar.
- Presentations will be posted online:

http://www.lec.leg.mn/projects/2025.html





## Speakers



Moderator
Lise Trudeau
Sr. Engineering Specialist,

Renewable Energy and Advanced Technologies
Minnesota Department of Commerce,
Division of Energy Resources



Voluntary Green Power Programs in 2015 and Beyond

Adam Capage Vice President, Utility Partnerships 3Degrees



**Emerging Trends in Green Tariffs** 

Letha Tawney
Director of Utility Innovation and
Polsky Chair for Renewable Energy
World Resources Institute





## Context

market demand.

- e21 initiative Phase I report, December 2014
   Recommendations included development of innovative utility service offerings to meet
- MN 2025 Energy Action Plan, 2015-2016
   Green tariffs highlighted for potential to facilitate transition to clean energy.
- Meister Consultants for AEE, October 2015
   Analysis highlights MN policy potential for green tariffs. Estimated 8,900 MW of new renewable capacity to meet large corporate energy load.



### Context

- Electric vehicle charging tariffs:
  - December 2015: Investor owned utilities to file framework for an all-renewable rate option for electric vehicle charging
  - PUC Docket numbers:
    - **-** 15-111, 15-112, 15-120



## Speakers



# Voluntary Green Power Programs in 2015 and Beyond

Adam Capage Vice President, Utility Partnerships 3Degrees



# VOLUNTARY GREEN POWER PROGRAMS IN 2015 AND BEYOND

PRESENTED TO

Webinar – Emerging Trends in Utility Green Power Products

01

02

03

04

Market overview Different structures

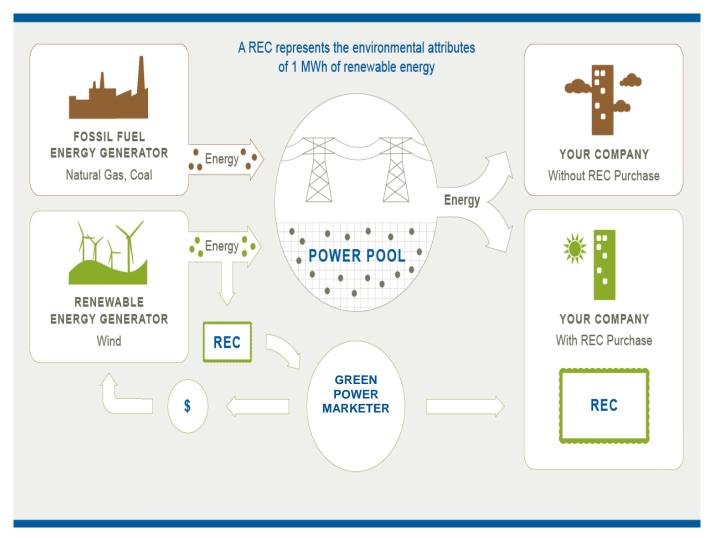
Why utilities?

Best practices

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Market Overview

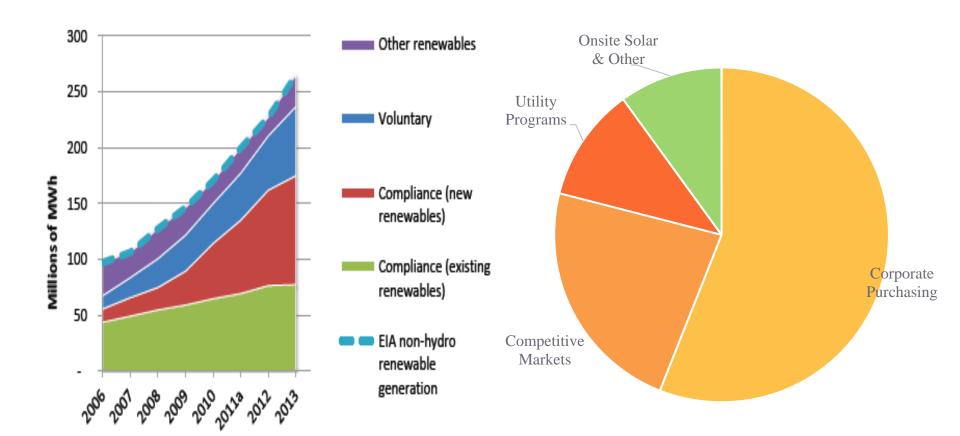
#### A Quick REC Primer





#### **Full Market Overview**

#### Voluntary Market





#### Today's Market Realities

#### **REC BASED PROGRAMS**

- + Handful of very successful programs
- + Many programs just maintain basic performance
- Mature programs struggle to outpace churn to find program growth
- + Not a lot of new programs starting

#### **SOLAR MARKET**

- + Rapidly changing market place
- Utility concerns about net metering and Value-of-Solar Tariffs (VOSTs)
- Desire from multiple parties to expand access to solar
- + Customer demand across all segments





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Different Structures



#### How Commercial Purchases are Getting Done

#### **TARIFFED PRODUCT**

- + Through the same program available to residential customers
- Bulk rate options
- + Hybrid deals

#### **ONE-OFF DEALS**

- + One-off deal negotiation
- + National REC tariffs
- + Self-allocation of existing state surcharges



#### Pacific Power's Blue Sky program – Case Study

#### **SMALL - MEDIUM SIZED BUSINESS CUSTOMERS**

- + Same product options as residential customers
- + Green-e Energy certified
- + Blend of local, newer wind, biomass, geothermal and solar
- + Suite of marketing / recognition benefits

#### LARGE BUSINESSES CUSTOMERS

- + Western Region wind sold in 100-kWh blocks for \$1.95 each
  - + Bulk rate pricing price per block decreases with each block over 100
  - Hybrid deals partners with a REC vendor to blend a percentage of Blue Sky blocks with lower priced RECs
  - + Oregon Self-allocate public purpose charges of 3% to Blue Sky program
  - + One-off deals Similar to a hybrid deal but 100% of the enrollment counts towards program MWh sales
- + Green-e Energy certified
- + Suite of marketing / recognition benefits



#### Austin Energy's GreenChoice — Case Study

#### **STRUCTURE**

- + 100% Texas Wind, secured through long-term supply contracts
- + GreenChoice charge replaces traditional energy charge
- + Green-e Energy certified

#### **MARKETING**

- + Target commercial customers from the beginning
- + Key Account Managers sell GreenChoice to their customers through existing relationships

#### **BENEFITS**

- + Stable Price
- + Large purchasers also qualify for EPA Green Power Partner Program, City of Austin's Green Business Leaders, LEED credits, and Austin Energy Green Building ratings



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Why Utilities?

#### Why business customers choose utilities

- + Existing relationship
- + Flexible pricing tiers
- + No contracts to sign
- + No RFP process
- + Marketing / recognition benefits



# Sample of businesses who participate in utility programs

- + Tech companies Apple, Inc; Dell, Inc
- + Government Agencies MN Municipal Pollution Control Agency, Metro Transit, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. National Park Service
- + Aerospace Lockheed Martin
- + Breweries Full Sail, Widmer Brothers, Deschutes, and many, many more
- + City Governments St. Paul, MN; Park City, UT; Washington D.C.; Austin, TX
- + Colleges & Universities University of St. Thomas, Bemidji State University, University of Wyoming, University of Wisconsin, Santa Clara University



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Best Practices

#### **Best Practices**

#### **PROGRAM SPECIFIC**

- + Supply
  - Retire the REC
  - Newer projects, local, longer term contracts (all solar or wind)
- Invest in marketing
- + Become Green-e Energy certified
- + Set smart pricing

#### **BUSINESS CUSTOMER SPECIFIC**

- Minimize barriers
- Offer monthly pricing with flexibility to pay annually
- Simplify participation tiers (small med purchasers)
- + Align participation tiers with EPA recognition (large purchasers)
- + Appeal to larger purchasers
- Establish attractive marketing benefits



#### **Marketing Tactics**

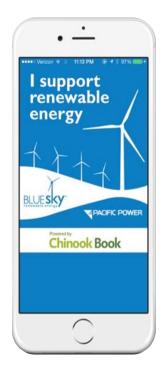


#### **HIGH TOUCH, SERVICE CENTERED TACTICS**

- Courtesy Knock
- Call Center / Courtesy Calls



#### Marketing/recognition benefits







**MOBILE COUPONS** 

**SOCIAL MEDIA** 

**ADVERTISING** 



#### More resources

- + NREL top ten list:
  - http://apps3.eere.energy.gov/greenpower/resources/tables/topten.shtml
- NREL State of Voluntary Market report:
  - http://www.nrel.gov/analysis/market\_green\_power.html
- + EPA Green Power Partnership:
  - http://www3.epa.gov/greenpower/index.htm





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## Speakers



# **Emerging Trends in Green Tariffs**

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# EMILICANG TRENDS IN GREEN ARIFFS

Letha Tawney, Director — Utility In wation October 28, 2015 MN Dept of Commerce webinar



WRI'S ENERGY WORK | We foster collaborations between utilities, large energy buyers and regulators to create opportunities for cost-effective renewable energy deployment.



## COMPANIES ARE BUYING RENEWABLE ENERGY IN MANY WAYS TODAY

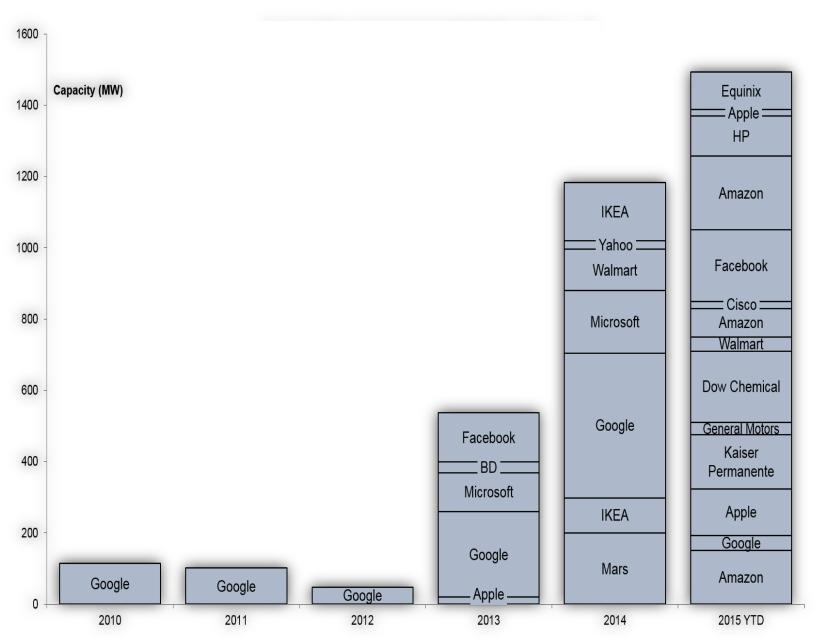
#### **Unbundled RECs**

- Green Power Programs
- RECs contracts with projects
- Purchases from brokers

#### Energy + RECs

- Rooftop or Community Solar
- Green Tariffs
- PPAs via Direct Access
- Contracts for Differences / Virtual PPAs
- Direct project investment

#### **CORPORATE LARGE-SCALE PPA MARKET**



Source: BNEF, RMI Analysis

# CORPORATE RENEWABLE ENERGY BUYERS' PRINCIPLES: INCREASING ACCESS TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

43 COMPANIES

3 OMILLION MWH
OF DEMAND FOR
RENEWABLE ENERGY

Bloomberg



























































































#### **CORPORATE RE BUYERS' PRINCIPLES**



Greater choice in renewable energy options.



More access to cost-competitive options

compared with traditional rates.



**LONG-TERM PRICING** 

Access to long-term, fixed-price contracts.



Streamlined third-party financing, as well as standardized contracts and simplified processes.



Access to new projects that reduce energy emissions over business as usual.



Opportunities for increased options from utilities and regulators.







#### **EMERGENCE OF GREEN TARIFFS**





#### **GREEN TARIFFS: THE IDEA**

- Energy + RECs
- Fixed / predictable price for energy
- Protection from a fuel charge
- May allow lower than retail rates for the energy
- Expanding on regulatory models such as combined heat and power or direct access

#### **DESIGN STRUCTURES: HIGH-LEVEL DIFFERENCES**

	PSE – WA (proposed)	RMP – UT	NV Energy - NV	Duke – NC
Tariff type	New tariff	New tariff	Rider	Rider
Contract Terms	Energy demand	Power demand	Energy demand	Energy demand
Cost- competitive w/retail rates	Possible	Possible – even a discount	Possible	Always premium
Contract length	10 years; can extend to 15 years	Negotiated	Negotiated; min 2 years	Negotiated; 3 – 15 years
Flexibility	Yes (across facilities)	Yes (across facilities)	Yes (in trans. design)	
Possible ROI for utility	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
RE deals	N/A		Apple, Switch	in talks



#### **EMERGING LESSONS**

- Helpful simplicity and the ability to hedge against retail rates, as CHP does
- Problem significant premium or complexity
- Problem capacity limitations prevent 100% RE goal

# WHAT MAKES GREEN TARIFFS ATTRACTIVE TO CUSTOMERS?

- Price predictability
- (Potentially) lower project and energy costs
- Reliable counter-party in the utility
- Preserved capital
- Flexibility move locations unlike on-site generation
- Additionality pointing to a specific project



# WHAT MAKES GREEN TARIFFS ATTRACTIVE TO UTILITIES?

- Predictable load in an era of rapid change
- Predictable revenue and return unlike RECs only products
- Strong customer relationships
- Opportunity to plan for siting and integration optimize
- Opportunity to value the lower carbon route to compliance



#### **HOW TO PROTECT OTHER CUSTOMERS**

- Separate the energy portion of the bill from the grid and other services
- Customer pays the cost of the energy used – extra production is priced at market
- Explicitly charge for shaping
- Penalties for early termination
- Soft-limit the program size to otherwise anticipated resource additions and 100% of customer demand



## **Further Reading**

http://www.wri.org/our-work/project/charge

#### **Letha Tawney**

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## Questions?

Submit questions via the Questions field in the webinar control panel.





mn.gov/commerce/energy