



# EPA's Green Power Partnership Partnership Requirements

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

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# Partnership Requirements

## Summary

- Partner organizations can join at a facility level up to an organization-wide commitment (U.S. facilities only).
- Partner organizations must procure green power in amounts proportional to their annual electricity use.
- Eligible renewable resources include wind, solar, geothermal, qualifying biomass, and low-impact hydropower.
- Partner organizations can meet the minimum usage requirements with any of the following products (either singly or in combination): community choice aggregation, competitive supplier green power products, power purchase agreements, renewable energy certificates (RECs), self-supply, shared renewables, utility green power products, and utility green tariffs.

## I. Introduction

This document outlines the requirements for joining EPA's Green Power Partnership (GPP). The GPP is a voluntary program supporting the increased use of green power to reduce the environmental impacts associated with conventional electricity use. This document complements the requirements presented in the program Partnership Agreement (see Appendix C).

## II. Eligible Organizations

The Partnership is open to all organizations operating within the United States with an annual electricity use of 100,000 kilowatt-hours or greater, except for sellers, suppliers, or marketers of green power (i.e., "providers"). Partnership-eligible organizations include:

- Publicly- and privately-held corporations
- Federal, state, and local government agencies
- Nonprofits
- Educational institutions

Providers are those organizations that sell, supply, or market green power products. Providers may include: utilities; renewable energy certificate sellers, brokers or distributors; on-site renewable services providers; and others. EPA reserves the right to withhold partnership to any organization that is perceived as a seller, supplier, marketer, or provider of green power products. The Partnership works with providers under a separate framework.

Individuals and private residences are not eligible to join the GPP, but they may find the information and resources available through the Partnership useful in finding, evaluating, and procuring green power products.

### III. Scope of Participation

There are two levels at which an organization may join the GPP:

1. Organization-wide (U.S. operations only)
2. Single facility or any logical aggregation of facilities less than organization-wide

This flexibility provides organizations the opportunity to refine their green power procurement strategies as they expand their commitment over time.

Only organizations joining at the organization-wide level are eligible for inclusion on the GPP's 100% Green Power Users list.

The Partnership requires that Partners with branded franchise<sup>1</sup> facilities clearly state in any public disclosure whether or not the scope of participation includes such branded facilities. EPA requires this disclosure since franchised facilities not owned by a Partner may still be branded with the Partner's name, and as a result a Partner's claim of using green power may give the impression that similarly branded but independently operated facilities are also using green power.

Partners may claim to be using green power "organization-wide" (U.S. facilities only), meaning facilities owned and operated by the Partner—but excluding franchise facilities—or including co-branded or facilities operating under franchise agreements. Either way, the Partner may claim to be using green power, but the chosen organizational categorization must be clearly stated in any public disclosure. Partners procuring green power organization-wide (under either scope) are eligible for the 100% Green Power Users list.

With respect to rented or leased space, only the party procuring the green power may make environmental claims. This will avoid both the lessor and the lessee making claims on the same green power. However, both renter and owner may use green power for a single facility in order to make the same green claims about that facility.

### IV. Incremental Green Power Requirement

EPA recognizes only voluntary green power use above mandatory requirements, such as state renewable portfolio standards (RPS), mandates placed on utilities, or load-serving entities or consent decrees. All green power use counted by the GPP must be incremental to what the Partner would have bought absent proactive green power procurement.

In each of the following examples, renewable electricity generation is not considered green power and does not reflect an environmental benefit for which the Partner could claim credit:

1. Renewable electricity generation is used to satisfy RPS mandates or goals imposed by federal, state or local governments on utilities or load serving entities.

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<sup>1</sup> A franchise agreement constitutes any agreement in which one organization's products, brand name, business model, facility, operational structure, or other goods and services are granted to another organization.

2. Renewable electricity generation is included in an undifferentiated power product (e.g., standard electricity service or utility system mix).
3. Renewable electricity generation is being paid for by all customers (e.g., in a utility's standard rates).
4. Renewable electricity generation comes from an eligible renewable generator that has been mandated by a local, state, or federal government agency (e.g., in a consent decree).
5. Renewable electricity generation is purchased instead of paying a system benefits charge for renewable electricity (e.g., a self-directed system benefits charge).
6. Renewable electricity generation is purchased as part of a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) under a Clean Air Act enforcement action.
7. Renewable electricity generation is sourced from a state that has a mandatory GHG cap in place for power plant emissions or similar regulatory mechanism, unless emission allowances are retired on behalf of the renewable energy buyer, such as in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). For purchases from those states to be eligible and result in GHG emission reduction claims, Green Power Partners should communicate with their provider about whether the necessary administrative steps are being taken to secure this result.

The following are circumstances in which EPA has recognized a purchase of renewable electricity generation as incremental:

1. The purchase is a result of an obligation placed on federal, state, or local government agencies as end-users of energy via a state or federal executive order.
2. The purchase is included as a voluntary measure in a State Implementation Plan (SIP) under the federal NOX Budget Cap and Trade Program. Although SIPs are mandated, they do not set mandatory requirements for the use or purchase of renewable energy. Therefore, a purchase of green power under a SIP is considered a voluntary purchase.

## V. Yearly Reporting Requirement

Partners are asked to update EPA when a change occurs to their green power use or partnership status. In addition, each year, the GPP will provide each Partner's primary contact with a Partner Yearly Report summarizing the organization's last reported green power use and partnership status. Partners must review, update, and return the Partner Yearly Report to EPA. Partners that fail to return a Partner Yearly Report or otherwise provide an update to EPA risk suspension. For additional information, please see Section XIX (Partner Suspensions).

Partners can review the data EPA has on file for their organization by requesting a completed version of the Partner Yearly Report from the GPP.

## VI. Minimum Usage Requirement

EPA requires that Partners have an annual electricity use of 100,000 kWh or greater and meet a minimum percentage of their annual electricity use with green power. Partners should calculate their annual electricity

use in accordance with their organization’s scope of participation (i.e., facility level or up to organization-wide) in the GPP.

Partners must procure green power in amounts that meet or exceed EPA’s minimum usage requirements by the time they submit a Partnership Agreement.

For a green power procurement to qualify for the GPP, Partner organizations must retire, or not resell, the RECs associated with their green power purchase. An organization’s green power supplier may retire the RECs on a Partner’s behalf. This requirement prevents two different parties claiming the same green power benefits.

Partners with on-site systems, either owned by the Partner or a third-party, that do not own the RECs associated with the system may not claim that the electricity they are using is renewable. The electricity generated from an on-site system where the RECs have been conveyed to another party does not qualify in meeting EPA usage requirements. Partners may, however, replace the RECs conveyed from an on-site system through a secondary green power purchase in order to qualify for the GPP.

### Assessing Your Organization’s Minimum Usage Requirement

Organizations can take the following steps to assess their minimum green power usage requirement:

1. Decide the organization’s scope of partnership (i.e., facility level up to organization-wide / U.S. operations only).
2. Calculate an annualized (i.e. 12-month period) electricity use for the scope of partnership. Organizations can use recent utility bills to estimate their projected electricity use. Note: Partners must have an annual electricity use of 100,000 kWh or greater.
3. Organizations that have no access to or control over electricity use or billing data (e.g., for leased space) can estimate total electricity use based on square footage. Multiply the total square footage of your chosen scope of partnership by an electricity consumption factor of 14.6 kWh per square foot per year (or .0146MWh/sf/year). This is a national average for U.S. commercial buildings of all space types<sup>2</sup>.
4. Organizations can use the table below to find the kilowatt- hours (kWh) range for their annual electricity use (i.e., their “baseload”) and identify the corresponding percentage of green power required to meet EPA’s minimum requirements.

EPA will periodically review and update the minimum usage requirements to keep pace with the market and buyer patterns.

*Table 1: Minimum Usage Requirements*

If your annual electricity use is...	You must, at a minimum, use this much green power
≥ 100,000,001 kWh	7% of your use
10,000,001 - 100,000,000 kWh	10% of your use
1,000,001 - 10,000,000 kWh	25% of your use
100,000* - 1,000,000 kWh	50% of your use

\*Organizations that use more than 100,000 kWh are eligible for Partnership.

<sup>2</sup> Energy Information Agency, <https://www.eia.gov/consumption/commercial/data/2012/c&e/cfm/c14.php>

The minimum usage in kilowatt-hours (kWh) must be greater than the highest possible requirement in kilowatt-hours for the next lower benchmark level. For example, an organization with a baseload electricity use of 100,000,001 kWh (7 percent benchmark level) would be required to use 10,000,000 kWh a year minimum, which equals the highest possible requirement for the 10 percent benchmark category.

## VII. Energy Efficiency Improvements and Buying Green Power

EPA encourages Partners to pursue energy efficiency improvements and can refer Partners to ENERGY STAR® for more information. Efficiency efforts may reduce Partners' total electricity use. The GPP requires that Partners provide a yearly update on electricity load and green power use (see Section V Yearly Reporting Requirement). Partners can report efficiency-related reductions in total electricity consumption through this process.

## VIII. Eligible Sources of Green Power

The GPP defines “green power” as a subset of renewable energy that encompasses those renewable resources and technologies that provide the highest environmental benefit.

Green power facilities must generate electricity with zero anthropogenic (i.e., human-caused) emissions and have an environmental profile superior to conventional power generation.

EPA requires that a Partner's green power use be supplied from U.S.-based facilities. And, to support developing more renewable energy capacity nationwide, EPA requires that Partners use green power from “new” renewable energy facilities. EPA defines “new” as those facilities put into service within the last 15 years (on or after January 1 of the year 15 years prior to the current date). This rolling 15-year new date will help continuously drive the development of new renewables.

The following are eligible green power resources:

- Solar photovoltaic
- Wind
- Geothermal
- Eligible hydropower (see Appendix A)
- Eligible biomass (see Appendix A)
- Co-firing of eligible forms of biomass with non-renewables (acceptable under certain conditions as defined in Appendix B)
- Biodiesel-fueled (B100) generators
- Fuel cells using eligible fuel sources listed above

For a more extensive explanation of eligible sources of green power, please refer to Appendix A.

## IX. Eligible Scope of Green Power Use

The GPP shall only count eligible renewable electricity (e.g., green power) reported to the Green Power Partnership from U.S.-based generators that generate green power to address a Partner's baseline purchased grid electricity use within its US scope of operations (See Section III Scope of Participation).

Partners may at their discretion report separately some additional forms of US-sourced green power procurement beyond that which is applied against the baseline electricity use (e.g., Scope 2 emissions associated with electricity use) within the Partner's US scope of operations and which meets any of the following conditions:

- Temporary green power procurement in excess of the Partner's total US baseline electricity use resulting from energy use efficiency activities or divestiture of assets
- Green power procurement used to address applicable Scope 3 emissions (i.e., T&D losses and other acceptable applications defined by GHG inventory standards and guidance)
- Other eligible green power procurements in excess of the Partner's operational baseline electricity use on a case-by-case basis

Partners are required for all optional reporting instances to provide a written explanation on the reason for the additional procurement to be included in their Partner Profile on the GPP website. The GPP reserves the option to not count green power procurements that do not meet industry best practice, GHG inventory standards, or lack sufficient transparency of their intended purpose.

## X. Eligible Green Power Products

Partners have significant flexibility in choosing types and combinations of green power products. The following product types are acceptable:

- Community choice aggregation products
- Competitive supplier green power products
- Power purchase agreements
- Renewable energy certificates (RECs)
- Self-supply
- Shared renewables
- Utility green power products
- Utility green tariffs

The eligible green power content of utility green marketing or utility green pricing products may vary. EPA recognizes only the eligible green power portion of a product toward fulfilling the GPP's usage requirements. For example, if an organization is buying a utility green power product composed of 50 percent wind power, 10 percent large hydropower, and 40 percent conventional power, only the 50 percent of that purchase derived from wind power qualifies as an eligible resource. Neither the large hydropower nor the conventional power qualifies, as described in Section VIII (Eligible Sources of Green Power).



## **XI. Arizona Renewable Energy Standard and Tariff (REST) Requirement**

On December 31, 2014, the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) released Decision No. 74882, which provides a resolution to the reporting challenge that public service corporations serving retail electric load in Arizona (“affected utilities,” excluding any Utility Distribution Company with more than half of its customers located outside of Arizona) faced in meeting the distributed generation (DG) portion of the state’s Renewable Energy Standard and Tariff (REST). With this decision, the ACC adopted language that specifically allows Commissioners to consider null power when determining REST compliance.

This ACC decision applies to compliance reports filed in 2015 and thereafter, and includes generation that occurred in 2014. The ACC rule requires an affected utility to report all kWh of energy produced within the Affected Utility’s service territory. This decision gives the ACC discretion over whether to consider null power generated in the geographic footprint of affected utilities when evaluating the compliance status of the utility—which could effectively count RECs generated within the affected utility footprint, but not owned by the utility.

- EPA Green Power Partners that either self-generate or have green power contracts with resource eligible projects that originate within the footprints of electricity providers subject to the Arizona Renewable Energy Standard and Tariff (REST) shall be required to attest that all green power generation reported to EPA’s Green Power Partnership has not been reported by Affected Utilities to the state’s REST. Generally, third-party certified green power procurements will not require additional disclosure beyond the certification itself to meet this requirement. However, RECs or renewable electricity that is not third-party certified and that originate from projects in the aforementioned footprints may require additional disclosure.
- Generation stemming from any project that is reported to the state’s REST will be determined to be not incremental to regulation and not meet regulatory surplus requirements already required by EPA’s Green Power Partnership.

Partners will need to do the following in order to identify and demonstrate that reported green power generation from projects originating within Affected Utility footprints is, in fact, eligible for meeting EPA’s Green Power Partnership requirements:

1. Green Power Partners shall obtain a copy of the relevant affected utility’s REST Report, and
2. Using this REST report or through a separate ACC statement, the Partner shall demonstrate and attest that the project or its generation was not used for REST compliance when reporting to the GPP.

## **XII. Guidance on Purchasing Texas RECs from Non-Wind Facilities**

Texas Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) from non-wind facilities that qualify for Compliance Premiums (CPs) are eligible to meet the Partnership’s purchase requirements if the RECs and an equal amount of CPs from the same generating unit are purchased and retired on behalf of the voluntary purchaser in the same year. This will allow the Partner on whose behalf the RECs and CPs were retired to make a complete renewable energy claim regarding the non-wind renewable megawatt-hours (MWh) they used to satisfy the GPP requirements. This policy applies to all non-wind renewable energy supply generated in Texas on or after January 1, 2008. This policy does not affect Texas RECs obtained from (1) non-wind facilities installed and REC-certified by the Public Utility Commission of Texas on or before September 1, 2005, as these

facilities do not qualify for CPs, and, (2) energy generated from non-wind facilities on or before December 31, 2007, as CPs are awarded for each REC only for energy generated after December 31, 2007.

Below is the Substantive Rule 25.173(l):

(l) Target for renewable technologies other than wind power. In order to meet the target of at least 500 MW of the total installed renewable capacity after September 1, 2005, coming from a renewable energy technology other than a source using wind energy as set forth in subsection (a)(1) of this section, the program administrator shall award compliance premiums to certified REC generators other than those powered by wind that were installed and certified by the commission pursuant to subsection (n) of this section after September 1, 2005. A compliance premium is created in conjunction with a REC.

(1) For eligible non-wind renewable technologies, one compliance premium shall be awarded for each REC awarded for energy generated after December 31, 2007.

(2) Except as provided in this subsection, the award, retirement, trade, and registration of compliance premiums shall follow the requirements of subsections (d), (k) and (m) of this section.

(3) A compliance premium may be used by any entity toward its RPS requirement pursuant to subsection (h) of this section.

(4) The program administrator shall increase the statewide RPS requirement calculated for each compliance period pursuant to subsection (h)(1) of this section by the number of compliance premiums retired during the previous compliance period.

### **XIII. Locating Green Power Products**

EPA recommends shopping for green power to identify and compare options. EPA strongly recommends buying green power that has been third-party certified and verified to nationally-accepted standards for product quality and content.

An online resource to help you identify certified and verified green power that meets nationally accepted standards is the Center for Resource Solution's "Find Green-e Certified" search tool. This tool is managed by a nongovernmental organization that developed a standard for green power.

This tool is provided solely as an information service and does not constitute endorsement or recommendation by EPA.

EPA does not endorse any provider or product listed in this database. EPA does not accept responsibility for content or application.

### **XIV. "New" Renewables Usage Requirement**

To support developing more renewable energy capacity nationwide, EPA requires that Partners use green power from "new" renewable energy facilities. EPA defines "new" as those facilities put into service within

the last 15 years (on or after January 1 of the year 15 years prior to the current date). This rolling 15-year new date will help continuously drive the development of new renewables.

Green power sourced from long-term supply contracts and Partner-owned projects will be recognized as “New” throughout the term of the original contract or project commitment long as the project was eligible as a “New” Renewable resource (i.e., less than 15-years) at the time when the contract or project commitment was initiated. Only supply contracts or self-generation put in place after January 1, 1997 are eligible. Partners may seek eligibility approval from GPP on a case-by-case basis for projects located at a partner facility that are second-owner self-generation or second-off taker supply contracts.

EPA considers facilities put into service before the new date to be “existing” generation facilities. Facilities placed into operation before the new date may qualify as a “new” facility if one or more of the following conditions are met:

1. The facility has been re-powered on or after the 15-year new date such that 80 percent of the fair market value of the project stems from new generation equipment installed as part of the re-powering.
2. Eligible hydropower facility improvements that increase electrical energy output due to efficiency improvements may include:
  - Rewinding of existing turbine generator(s)
  - Replacement with new turbine generator(s)
  - New turbine generator additions to an existing impoundment

Improvements may not as a consequence increase the water storage capacity or the head of an existing water impoundment, or otherwise change the run of the river flow of the resource.

Qualifying “new” incremental hydropower output will be credited using the following quantification and accounting criteria. The incremental generating capacity (in nameplate MW) is divided by the total uprated generating capacity (in nameplate MW) and then multiplied by generation output (in MWh) from the uprated generator. For example, if a hydroelectric power plant expands generating nameplate capacity from 100 MW to 125 MW and generation output increased to 1,000 MWh, then 200 MWh  $((25 \text{ MW}/125 \text{ MW}) * 1,000 \text{ MWh})$  would be eligible towards reporting to EPA’s Green Power Partnership, regardless of the overall level of generation of the project during the period. Note that the overall generation from the uprated hydroelectric power plant may be higher or lower than generation levels that occurred at the plant prior to the capacity uprate.

To verify the “New” incremental output, the GPP reserves the right to request that Partners present an independent third-party report demonstrating that the increased annual output of electrical energy is a result of the “new” incremental improvements.

Improvements that increase electrical energy output due to routine maintenance (i.e., output would be increased compared to original design) do not count.

The GPP will review on a case-by-case basis ocean-based or tidal generation resources as warranted by technological, implementation, and market developments.

3. A separable improvement to or a complete improvement of an existing operating facility provides incremental generation that is separately metered from the existing generation at the facility. In addition, if the incremental generation is sold as a green power market product, then it must be contractually available for sale and not claimed under a state renewable portfolio standard or consent decree.
4. The facility is a biomass co-firing operation that meets the eligibility requirements as described in Appendices A and B and began co-firing eligible biomass with non-eligible fuels on or after the 15-year new date.
5. The facility is a separately metered landfill gas resource that was not used to generate electricity before the 15-year new date.

## XV. Eligible Generation Dates

Green power procured for a 12-month reporting period must be either generated during that reporting period, generated during the six (6) months immediately preceding the reporting period, or the three (3) months immediately following the reporting period. This equates to a 21-month eligibility period for which a Partner’s renewable energy certificate-based green power can be generated. Partners may, at their own discretion, determine their base 12-month reporting period (See Table 5). The following examples show generation eligibility date ranges for different reporting period options:

### Calendar Year Example

For a Partner purchasing REC-based green power to cover the calendar year of 2017, eligible REC-based green power must be generated between 10/1/2016 and 3/31/2018.

### Fiscal Year Example

For a Partner purchasing REC-based green power to cover a fiscal year starting on 10/1/2017 – 9/30/2018, eligible REC-based green power must be generated between 7/1/2017 and 12/31/2018.

### Other 12-month Reporting Year Example

For a Partner purchasing REC-based green power to cover a 12-month reporting period that ranges from 6/1/2017 – 5/31/2018, eligible REC-based green power must be generated between 3/1/2017 and 8/31/2018.

*Table 2. Illustrative Examples of Eligible Generation Periods with Respect to Different Reporting Periods*

2016						2017												2018																							
Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec												
						Calendar Year																																			
																			Fiscal Year																						
																		Other 12-month Reporting Year																							

**Important Note:** Organizations should be aware that emissions inventory protocols might require that green power purchase generation dates reasonably align with the specific 12-month reporting period for which the emissions are applied to an inventory and claimed; for example, a green power purchase for calendar-year 2017 emissions would require that the green power be generated between July 1, 2016 and March 31, 2017. Organizations should verify that a green power purchase is applicable towards meeting greenhouse gas reduction goals. For information on carrying out an emissions inventory, please refer to EPA's Center for Corporate Climate Leadership at [www.epa.gov/climateleadership](http://www.epa.gov/climateleadership).

## Future RECs

Future RECs are counted in the year they are actually generated, with the same limited flexibility offered to any other REC product. This means they may be claimed to meet Partnership requirements if they are generated during the Partner's 12-month reporting period, in the six months preceding the Partner's reporting period, or the first three months following the Partner's reporting period.

*Example: In 2017, Partner E purchases 20 million kWh of a future REC product from a wind farm that is scheduled to begin operation in 2020. The RECs generated by this wind farm will not be eligible to meet Partnership requirements until operations begin in 2020 and only those RECs generated during the eligible generation period for a Partner's reporting period will be counted.*

Beginning January 1, 2011, regardless of existing contracts, all future RECs purchases in the program will be counted only if they meet the generation date eligibility requirements for the respective reporting period, with the same flexibility exceptions around the selected generation date.

## XVI. Product Certification

EPA strongly encourages Partners to buy green power products that are certified by an independent third-party as a matter of best practice. Buying a certified green power product offers a higher certainty to customers that they are receiving the desired environmental benefits. Certified products also meet environmental and consumer protection guidelines adopted by the certifying organization as well as relevant guidelines set forth by the National Association of Attorneys General and the Federal Trade Commission.

EPA does not require Partners to buy certified products.

## XVII. Environmental Claims Guidance

Buying or using green power enables Partners to make certain environmental benefit statements. The Green Power Partnership's website has extensive information describing the best practices for appropriately explaining and characterizing your organizational use of green power. See:

[www.epa.gov/greenpower/making-environmental-claims](http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/making-environmental-claims).

EPA reserves the right to suspend Partners that are making inappropriate claims. For additional information, please see Section XIX (Partner Suspensions).

## XVIII. Partner Recognition

### Green Power Partner Mark

Partners may use the EPA Green Power Partner mark within the limits described in the Partner Mark Use Guidelines. Partners may use the mark on websites, press releases, and general marketing materials to show the organization's partnership with EPA. EPA is available to review all uses of the Partner mark on Partner communication materials.

The Partner Mark Use Guidelines outline how Partners should use the Partner mark in promoting their partnership with EPA.

In all cases, please notify EPA when using the Partner mark. The Partner Mark Use Guidelines are available at [www.epa.gov/greenpower/green-power-partner-mark-use-and-display-guidelines](http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/green-power-partner-mark-use-and-display-guidelines).

For more information about using the Green Power Partner mark, please contact Christopher Kent ([kent.christopher@epa.gov](mailto:kent.christopher@epa.gov)).

### National Top Partner Lists

Partners can earn placement on one or more of EPA's Top Partner lists. EPA updates these lists quarterly. The update schedule and Partner data deadlines are available on the Partnership website at [www.epa.gov/greenpower/green-power-partnership-top-partner-rankings](http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/green-power-partnership-top-partner-rankings).

Placement on EPA's Top Partner Lists provides excellent opportunities for Partners to announce new or increased green power usage. EPA's Top Partner lists currently include:

- National Top 100 List
- Fortune 500® Partners List
- Top 30 College & University List
- Top 30 K-12 Schools List
- Top 30 Local Government List
- Top 30 Tech & Telecom List
- Top 30 On-site Generation List
- Top 30 Retail List
- 100% Green Power Users List
- Green Power Partnership Long-term Contracts

EPA reserves the right to retire or modify existing lists—or to introduce new Top Partner lists—at any time.

## Green Power Leadership Awards

The annual Green Power Leadership Awards recognize organizations and individuals that significantly advance the development of green power resources and markets. The award application period begins in the spring. EPA and an independent panel of judges review the applications. The awards ceremony is held in the fall at the Renewable Energy Markets Conference.

EPA recognizes winners in the following categories:

- Excellence in Green Power Use
- Green Power Partner of the Year
- Sustained Excellence in Green Power
- Direct Project Engagement
- Green Power Community of the Year

Winners must be EPA Green Power Partners in good standing. For more details, visit the Awards page of the GPP website at [www.epa.gov/greenpower/green-power-leadership-awards](http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/green-power-leadership-awards).

## XIX. Partner Suspensions

EPA requires that Partners update their partnership and green power use status annually. Each year, EPA will provide a Partner Yearly Report to each Partner's primary contact on record. Failure to respond to or meet the Partnership's minimum requirements will result in the Partner's suspension from the program. EPA will attempt to contact non-responsive Partners by e-mail before beginning the suspension process. Suspension entails removal of the Partner from all GPP materials, including the website. Suspended Partners must remove all mention of partnership from their marketing materials and websites, including all uses of the Green Power Partner mark.

EPA reserves the right to suspend Partners from the program who make inappropriate claims about their green power use (see Section XVII Environmental Claims Guidance) or use the Partner Mark inappropriately (see Section XVIII Partner Recognition).

## XX. Partnership Requirements Updates

EPA will continue to monitor the green power market and propose revisions to Partnership requirements as necessary. Requirements subject to review include, but are not limited to, minimum usage requirements, "new" renewables requirements, eligible generation dates, and eligibility of renewable resources. EPA will provide Partners and stakeholders with the opportunity to review and comment on any significant updates or proposed changes to the Partnership requirements.

## XXI. Contact EPA's Green Power Partnership

For questions about the GPP, please contact:  
James Critchfield ([critchfield.james@epa.gov](mailto:critchfield.james@epa.gov) or 202-343-9442)



## Appendix A – Eligible Green Power Resources

The following is a detailed list of eligible renewable resources that meet EPA’s green power criteria:

1. Solar photovoltaics
2. Wind
3. Geothermal
4. Hydropower is eligible if it meets one or more of the following conditions\*:
  - Hydropower facilities certified by the Low Impact Hydropower Institute
  - New incremental capacity\*\* on a non-impoundment or “new” generation capacity on an existing impoundment that is a run-of-the-river hydropower facility
  - Hydropower facilities that consist of a turbine in a pipeline or a turbine in an irrigation canal

Hydropower is not eligible if it comes from a new water impoundment.

EPA will consider new incremental capacity on an existing dam on a case-by-case basis, where the “new” output is equal to or less than 5 megawatts.

EPA will review and consider ocean-based or tidal generation resources as warranted by technological, implementation and market developments.

*\* All eligible hydropower must still meet other Green Power Partnership eligibility requirements outlined in this document.*

*\*\*All “new” output resulting from eligible new incremental capacity must meet the repowering requirements for hydropower outlined under Section XIV “New” Renewables Usage Requirement. New incremental capacity shall be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.*

5. Biomass, i.e., solid, liquid, and gaseous forms from the following fuels:
  - All woody waste<sup>3</sup>
  - All agricultural crops or waste
  - All animal and other organic waste
  - All energy crops
  - Landfill gas and wastewater methane<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Includes “black liquor” from pulp and paper processing, mill residues, industrial waste wood, and waste wood from woodworking or wood processing, so long as the wood is not chemically treated or coated.

<sup>4</sup> Landfill gas and wastewater methane that have been commingled in a pipeline or storage container with conventional natural gas, but were “directed” or “nominated” for use at a specific power generation facility, may be eligible subject to a case-by-case review by EPA. The methodology presented to EPA must demonstrate that the volume and heat content of



- Municipal solid waste, which is eligible if it meets EPA requirements for co-firing of biomass with non-renewables (see Appendix B).

Biomass resources excluded from eligibility include:

- Wood that has been coated with paints, plastics, or formica
- Wood that has been treated for preservation with materials containing halogens, chlorine or halide compounds like CCA-treated materials, or arsenic. (CCA = chromated copper arsenate)

Qualified wood fuels may contain de minimis quantities (i.e., less than 1 percent of total wood fuel) of the above excluded contaminants.

6. Biodiesel (B100) that is used to generate electricity is eligible if the following conditions are met:
  - The biodiesel is separately measured (and verified) from the petroleum diesel, and
  - Contracts are in place to allow a third party to verify that the biodiesel was converted to electricity.

Only the amount of electricity generated from the biodiesel may be counted as an eligible renewable resource.

7. Fuel cells are eligible when powered by hydrogen derived from any of the eligible renewable resources identified above.
8. Note on cogeneration/combined heat and power technologies: Electricity produced by “new” cogeneration (also known as combined heat and power) is eligible if the fuel used is listed above as an eligible green power resource. Only the amount of electricity generated from the eligible resource may count towards EPA requirements.

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the injected landfill gas or wastewater methane was measured, preferably by an independent entity, at the point of injection and that only the amount of electricity generated that can be attributed to the “directed” landfill gas or wastewater methane is counted as green power.

## Appendix B – Co-firing of Eligible Biomass

1. Co-firing of eligible forms of biomass with non-renewables is permitted if at least one of the following conditions is met:
  - The facility is located in an electric system control area that makes use of a generation tracking system (e.g., NEGIS, PJM-GATS, WREGIS) that is fully capable of accurately measuring and reporting the differentiated (i.e., biomass-fired and non-biomass-fired) electrical output from the facility; or,
  - The biomass is in a gaseous or liquid state, is separately metered and there are contracts in place to verify that the biomass portion was converted to electricity; or,

Facilities that do not meet either of the criteria above may be eligible subject to a case-by-case review by EPA. The methodology presented to EPA must demonstrate that the Btu value of the electrical output from the facility is attributed to the eligible biomass fuel. Some of the criteria that EPA will consider in making its decision are:

- Whether the facility was modified to accept biomass fuel.
- Whether an independent entity is involved in verifying or determining the appropriate measurement.
- Whether there is a way to determine and ensure that the net electricity increment being sold as or considered “renewable” can be attributed to eligible biomass fuel. EPA would prefer a verification methodology that can be applied universally.

Only the amount of electricity generated from the eligible biomass may count towards the EPA criteria.

# Appendix C – Partnership Agreement

# Partnership Agreement



**T**he EPA Green Power Partnership encourages the voluntary use of green power to reduce the risk of climate change. Partners benefit from the use of green power, while supporting the development of new, renewable energy in the United States. To learn more visit [www.epa.gov/greenpower](http://www.epa.gov/greenpower).

## By joining EPA's Green Power Partnership, Partners commit to:

- Use green power that meets or exceeds Partnership requirements.
- Report on green power use annually.
- Use the Green Power Partner mark in a manner that is consistent with Partner mark use guidelines, available at [www.epa.gov/greenpower/green-power-partner-mark-use-and-display-guidelines](http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/green-power-partner-mark-use-and-display-guidelines)

## In return, EPA commits to:

- Provide public recognition.
- Provide procurement and communications assistance, as requested by Partner.
- Provide a brief description of the Partner's green power commitment on the Green Power Partnership website.

## General Terms:

- Either party can terminate this agreement at any time without prior notification or penalties and with no further obligation. EPA will not comment publicly regarding the withdrawal of Partners.
- Partner agrees that the activities it undertakes connected with this voluntary agreement are not intended to provide services to the federal government and that the Partner will not seek compensation from a federal agency.
- Partner agrees that it will not claim or imply that its participation in the Green Power Partnership constitutes EPA approval or endorsement of anything other than its participation in the program and will not make statements or imply that EPA endorses the purchase or sale of the Partner's products and services or the views of the Partner organization.
- EPA may post and/or share information about the Partner's green power use publicly.
- EPA may periodically revise program benchmark levels or other eligibility requirements.

## Key Green Power Partnership Requirements

Your Organization's Electricity Use If your annual electricity use is...	Green Power Partner Requirements You must, at a minimum, use this much green power
≥ 100,000,001 kWh	7% of your use
10,000,001 - 100,000,000 kWh	10% of your use
1,000,001 - 10,000,000 kWh	25% of your use
100,000* - 1,000,000 kWh	50% of your use

\*Organizations that use more than 100,000 kWh are eligible for Partnership.

- Eligible green power includes electricity generated from solar, wind, geothermal, biogas, and certain forms of biomass and hydropower.
- Green power must be sourced from eligible U.S.-based generation facilities.
- Requirement can be met with any combination of green power products (i.e., utility product, RECs, or on-site generation).
- Partner purchases must be voluntary and incremental to the renewable electricity included in the standard electricity service.
- Requirements must be entirely met with power from "new" renewable facilities (i.e., installed within the last 15 years).
- Partners may join organization-wide (U.S. operations only), at the facility-level, or a logical aggregation of facilities less than organization-wide.

More details are available in the Partnership Requirements Document, [www.epa.gov/greenpower/requirements-green-power-partnership](http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/requirements-green-power-partnership)

**PLEASE FAX PAGE 2 OF PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT TO (617) 227-1025 (contractor in support of EPA)  
OR EMAIL TO [critchfield.james@epa.gov](mailto:critchfield.james@epa.gov) (must be signed and scanned).**

## Authorizing Official:

On behalf of \_\_\_\_\_, the undersigned understands and agrees to the terms of the Partnership.  
(Name of organization or entity)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Title:  
Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date:

## Primary Contact:

Name:  
Title:  
Address:  
City: State: Zip:  
Phone:  
Email (required):

## Public Relations Contact (optional):

Name:  
Title:  
Address:  
City: State: Zip:  
Phone:  
Email:

## Electricity and Green Power Information

Reporting Period: The electricity and green power information listed below covers the following 12-month period.

Reporting Period Start Date Reporting Period End Date

Annual electricity use of participating entity: \_\_\_\_\_ kWh/year (must be > 100,000 kWh)

### Purchased Green Power

Green power purchase: \_\_\_\_\_ kWh/year

#### Contract details

Start date: \_\_\_\_\_ End date (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

#### Green power resource mix

% biogas % biomass % geothermal  
% small hydro % solar % wind

#### Product certification (third party):

Green-e  Not certified  Other

If other, by whom?

Name of green power provider(s):

Green power product name(s):

### On-site Use of Green Power

Green power generation: \_\_\_\_\_ kWh/year\*

Resource type:  biogas  biomass  geothermal  
 small hydro  solar  wind

Was the on-site unit installed in the last 15 years?  Yes  No

Installed capacity: \_\_\_\_\_ kW

Location of on-site generation (ZIP code):

Installation ownership:  self  other

If other, by whom?

\* EPA will only count as green power kWh generated from on-site installations for which the participating entity owns the rights to the renewable energy credits (RECs).

## Motivating factors behind your green power use (optional) (check all that apply)

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brand or product differentiation     | <input type="checkbox"/> EPA recognition           | <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce carbon footprint                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cost stability or savings            | <input type="checkbox"/> LEED certification        | <input type="checkbox"/> Support economic development & job creation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrate environmental leadership | <input type="checkbox"/> Meet sustainability goals | <input type="checkbox"/> Support renewable energy development        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other                                |  |  |

The government estimates the average time needed to fill out this form is 1.96 hours and welcomes suggestions for reducing this level of effort. Send comments (referencing OMB control number) to the Director, Collection Strategies Division, U.S. EPA (2822T), 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20460.

PLEASE FAX PAGE 2 OF PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT TO (617) 227-1025 (contractor in support of EPA) OR  
EMAIL TO [critchfield.james@epa.gov](mailto:critchfield.james@epa.gov) (must be signed and scanned).