

Green Power Offer

During its 2009 session, the Legislature enacted An Act to Establish the Community-based Renewable Energy Pilot Program (PL 2009, ch. 329 now codified at 35-A MRS § 3212-A). Part B of the Act requires the Commission to arrange for a green power supply offer. Green power supply is defined in statute as electricity or renewable energy credits (RECs) for electricity generated from renewable resources as defined in statute. The Act required the Commission to administer a competitive bid process to select a green power offer provider or providers.

During 2012, the Commission selected 3Degrees, Inc. as the provider for the Maine Green Power program, and concluded negotiations between host utilities (CMP, BHE and MPS) and 3Degrees for the billing and other administrative elements of the program. Customers now have the opportunity to purchase RECs associated with renewable power generated in Maine and pay for those RECs through their electric bills.

Status of the Program

The program was officially launched in April 2013 and is available to customers of CMP, BHE and MPS. It is a voluntary program that allows residential customers to purchase RECs in blocks of 500kWh per month at a price of \$7.50 per block. This will allow customers to closely match their REC purchases to all or a portion of their electricity usage, or to purchase RECs that exceed their electric usage.

As of September 18, 2013, there are 313 participants enrolled in the program supporting approximately 1,600 MWh per year of renewable generation located in Maine. The Maine program is in its infancy and is not comparable to other nationwide programs that have been established and operating for a decade or more. Based on the latest information from NREL (2010 data), the average participation rate in utility green power programs was less than 1%. The average participation rate for the largest 20 programs was 2.9%. In 2010, utility green pricing programs nationwide accounted for less than 5 million MWh of generation.

Pursuant to statute, the green power offer is repealed effective December 31, 2015 (35-A MRS § 3212-A(3)).

Related Carryover Bill

None