

PITTSBURGH OPERA

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What is a Renewable Energy Certificate?

EPA's Definition:

At the point of generation, both product components can be sold together or separately, as a bundled or unbundled product. In either case, the renewable generator feeds the physical electricity onto the electricity grid, where it mixes with electricity from other generation sources. Since electrons from all generation sources are indistinguishable, it is impossible to track the physical electrons from a specific point of generation to a specific point of use.

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As renewable generators produce electricity, they create one Renewable Energy Credit (REC) for every 1000 kilowatt-hours (or 1 megawatt-hour) of electricity placed on the grid. If the physical electricity and the associated RECs are sold to separate buyers, the electricity is no longer considered "renewable" or "green." The REC product is what conveys the attributes and benefits of the renewable electricity, not the electricity itself.

Green-E Definition:

Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs), also known as **Green tags**, **Renewable Energy Credits** or **Tradable Renewable Certificates (TRCs)**, are tradable environmental commodities in the United States which represent proof that 1 megawatt-hour (MWh) of electricity was renewable (generated from an eligible renewable energy resource).

These certificates can be sold, traded or bartered and the owner of the REC can claim to have purchased renewable energy. While traditional carbon emissions trading programs promote low-carbon technologies by increasing the cost of emitting carbon, RECs can incentivize carbon-neutral renewable energy by providing a production subsidy to electricity generated from renewable sources. It is important to understand that the energy associated with a REC is sold separately and is used by another party. The consumer of a REC receives only a certificate.

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In states which have a REC program, a green energy provider (such as a wind farm) is credited with one REC for every 1,000 kWh or 1 MWh of electricity it produces (for reference, an average residential customer consumes about 800 kWh in a month). A certifying agency gives each REC a unique identification number to make sure it doesn't get double-counted. The green energy is then fed into the electrical grid (by mandate) and the accompanying REC can then be sold on the open market.

Web Resources

www.green-e.org

<http://www.epa.gov/grnpower/gpmarket/rec.htm>

www.green-e.org/learn_re_faq.shtml#q6

Discover Yourself
2009-2010
Season

Pittsburgh Opera celebrates its 71st season in 2009-10 with [Eugene Onegin](#), [Falstaff](#), [The Rape of Lucretia](#), [Carmen](#) and [The Marriage of Figaro](#). In addition to its mainstage productions, Pittsburgh Opera produces a range of programs to engage and enrich the community with more than 20,000 students, families and educators participating in its educational events annually. The internationally renowned Pittsburgh Opera Resident Artist Program is among the country's top five training centers for rising opera stars and the company's newly designed administrative and rehearsal space, housed in a 139-year-old air brake factory in the city's Strip District, provides space for events ranging from free community Brown Bag concerts to concert recitals by world-class opera singers.

Beginning in August 2009, single tickets for as little as \$10

2009-2010 season subscriptions now for as little as \$21

For ticket information visit our website www.pittsburghopera.org or call (412) 281-0912

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