

Green Tags

What is a "Green Tag"? Green tags represent the environmental attributes or benefits (reduction in green house gases) that result from the generation of one megawatt-hour of alternative renewable energy (usually wind power). One megawatt-hour of electricity is equivalent to 1,000 kilo-watt hours (kWh). On average members at REC use approximately 1,100 kWh a month in their homes.

> [Download the Green Tag Purchase Agreement \(PDF\)](#)

Since 1950, Ravalli Electric Co-op (REC) has purchased 100% renewable energy in the form of hydro-electricity from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

In 1999, REC purchased some alternative renewable energy that was produced in the Northwest and had the power delivered through BPA. The power was offered for sale to Northwest public utilities and Co-ops. The alternative renewable energy was blended into our existing power supply and offered to all the members at REC.

The purchase of a green tag should be viewed as a sponsorship of green energy. The purchaser will receive ownership of all the environmental attributes of 1 MWh of renewable energy. Theoretically, the purchase of a green tag allows the purchaser to apply the green tag's environmental attributes to offset the environment impact of his/her personal energy consumption. It is a way to support the development of clean alternative renewable energy and help build the market.

The 2005 Legislature passed a bill requiring large utilities to purchase a specified percentage of their electricity from renewable sources. Although REC is exempt the intent was clear that Montanans want to see more energy produced from alternative renewable sources like wind, solar, and geothermal.

For as little as an additional \$4 a month you can purchase a 1 mega-watt hour (1,000 kWh) block or you can purchase 2 mega-watt hours (2,000 kWh) for \$6.00 a month. The charge will be added on to your monthly utility bill as a separate line item. If you purchase 1 mega-watt hour of alternative renewable energy it will add an additional \$48.00 to your yearly utility bill or \$72.00 if you choose 2 mega-watt hours. The purchase price is guaranteed through March 31, 2009. It is our goal to provide our members with reliable power at the lowest cost practical. If you are interested in purchasing green tags please contact the Co-op.