



Frequently Asked Questions about Green Mountain Power's B Corporation Certification

As a utility company, is Green Mountain Power required to meet the same standards as all other B Corps?

Yes. This includes earning a minimum verified score of 80 on the B Impact Assessment and amending governing documents to require stakeholder consideration. Also, because Green Mountain Power is a wholly owned subsidiary of GazMetro, a Canadian publicly traded corporation, it must also meet the additional B Corp requirements for wholly-owned subsidiaries. This includes full transparency of the company's B Impact Assessment and a mandatory on-site review during each certification term.

How can a utility provider meet the performance standards required to be a Certified B Corp?

The B Impact Assessment captures the positive impact of a business's operations and products/services. More specifically, it quantifies the positive actions that a business takes beyond the traditional operations of businesses. For energy providers, positive impact in this light includes providing energy alternatives that are preferable to traditional energy sources such as coal and other fossil fuel-based energy. As a positive impact assessment, no points are lost or subtracted for providing traditional energy sources. There is, however, variability in environmentally-preferred energy alternatives in terms of their impact and potential tradeoffs, necessitating special consideration and scoring in the assessment.

Because Green Mountain Power sells energy from a variety of sources, some of their product receives full credit for being best in class verified low-impact renewable energy, some receives partial credit for being an environmentally preferred alternative to traditional energy, and some, as a conventional energy source, receives no credit at all.

How does the B Impact Assessment differentiate between different sources of energy?

Maximum credit (up to 30 points) is earned for the provision of "best in class" low- impact renewable energy, also known as green energy. These energy sources are both renewable (able to be replenished constantly) and do not have material negative social or environmental tradeoffs. This includes Green Mountain Power's provision of solar and wind energy, as well as their local low-impact certified small scale hydroelectric energy. Eligibility for this level of impact needs to meet the requirements of Green-E certification ([more information here](#)).

Partial credit (up to 15 points) is also earned for providing cleaner burning fossil fuel based energy, or renewable energy that is not certified as "low impact." Both types have been determined to be an environmentally-preferred alternative to conventional energy sources. In the case of cleaner-burning

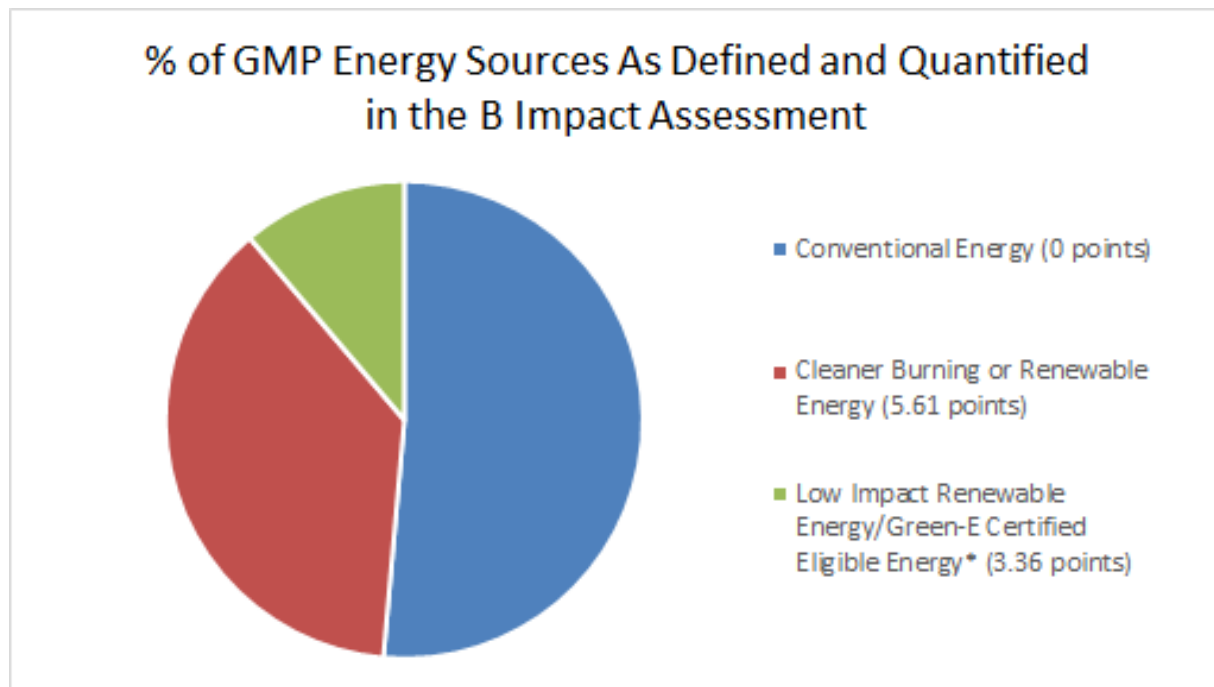
fossil fuel based energy, this is because the energy source emits less greenhouse gas emissions than conventional sources. In the case of non-certified renewable energy, this is to reflect the fact that as a renewable source it produces minimal greenhouse gas emissions, but is not “best in class” by meeting the standards set out by Green-E. For Green Mountain Power, this includes large scale hydroelectric power.

All other sources of energy under Green Mountain Power’s energy portfolio are not considered cleaner-burning or renewable energy.

For more information on the standards used to quantify the impact of energy providers, please see [here](#). To view Green Mountain Power’s transparent assessment, please go [here](#).

How many points are earned by Green Mountain Power for the provision of their various sources of energy?

Type of Energy	Examples	% of Green Mountain Power Energy	Points Earned	Maximum Points Available
Low-Impact Renewable Energy (Green-E Certified Energy)	Wind, Solar, Biogas, LIHI Certified Hydro Power (low-impact, small scale hydro power	11%*	3.36	30
Cleaner Burning or Renewable Energy	Large Scale Hydroelectric	37%	5.61	15
Conventional Energy	Fossil Fuel, Nuclear	52% (system purchases)	-	-



*Consistent with Vermont policy, GMP sells the renewable energy certificates associated with this 11% as a way to keep power supply costs lower for their customers.

How does the B Impact Assessment examine the negative impacts of a company involved in the provision of energy?

While the scoring of the B Impact Assessment is based on positive impact, in order to ensure that any potential negative impacts of B Corps are minimized, managed responsibly, and made transparent, the B Impact Assessment includes a Disclosure Questionnaire in which all businesses are required to disclose sensitive issues and provide additional information to the public. This includes involvement in the creation of dams, provision of fossil fuel based power, and nuclear power. To view Green Mountain Power's Disclosure Questionnaire, please go [here](#).

Acceptance into and continued participation in the B Corp community is at the sole discretion of the **Standards Advisory Council** and B Lab's **Board of Directors**. The B Corporation movement and the B Impact Assessment is intended to recognize businesses that are taking active steps to responsibly manage their environmental impacts as well as produce positive outcomes for the environment and society.

As an additional mechanism to ensure that members of the B Corporation Community meet the highest standards of social and environmental responsibility, there is also a public complaint mechanism to address any issues that B Lab might not be aware of. If a complaint is deemed material, B Lab will initiate an investigation into the complaint. Complaints are typically resolved in the following three

ways: (1) certification is revoked, (2) certification is upheld, with disclosure made transparent on public profile, (3) probation with required, specific remedies, or (4) certification is upheld. For more information, [see here](#).

How can a public service provider become a Certified B Corp?

The term public utility refers to the type of service that Green Mountain Power provides, and is not itself a corporate designation. Public utility providers could be owned and operated by a municipal government, or could be a non-profit, cooperative, or for-profit business. Thus not all public utility providers would be eligible to certify as a B Corp.

B Corporation certification is for companies. Green Mountain Power is a for profit business and is therefore eligible—it is a wholly-owned subsidiary of a Canadian publicly-traded corporation and is therefore also subject to the additional B Corporation requirements for wholly owned subsidiaries. It has also incorporated stakeholder consideration in its corporate governing documents. For more information, [see here](#).

B Lab learns and is able to improve from the expertise and wisdom of the B Corp community and broader public. For additional questions, comments, or concerns, contact thelab@bcorporation.net.