



BRIGHT

ENERGY CHOICES

MEMBER FACT SHEET

OVERVIEW

Bright Energy Choices (BEC) is a “green energy” program that lets your utility or your customers purchase Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) to support claims of using renewable or carbon-free energy.

WHAT IS A REC?

- A REC is a digital certificate created when 1 megawatt-hour (1,000 kilowatt-hours or kWh) of electricity is generated by a qualifying renewable facility — such as hydro, wind, or solar generators — and fed into the electric grid. Each REC is assigned a serial number so it can be tracked.
- RECs represent “environmental attributes,” but not the energy itself. RECs and energy are two separate products and are often purchased and sold separately.
- To make a claim about how much renewable energy a customer or utility uses, the corresponding amount of RECs must be retired. Each REC can only be retired once.
- Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) purchases and retires RECs in our members’ names, as directed by members. Members who purchase RECs through MRES receive a report each spring detailing the RECs retired on their behalf.

PARTICIPATION OPTIONS

1. Community Participation

Member utilities can purchase RECs on behalf of their community. Members will use a REC Order Form each fall to designate the percentage of their energy usage to be covered with REC purchases for the following year. (This does not include any RECs purchased by retail customers in No. 2 below.) This designation will determine the makeup of the member’s Environmental Footprint chart.

2. Retail Program

Retail customers (commercial or residential) can purchase RECs to offset the portion of their energy usage that is not already carbon-free based on the utility’s Environmental Footprint chart. Offering this program to retail customers is at the discretion of the utility.

HOW BILLING WORKS

- Members use the BEC Monthly Reporting Form to report to MRES their non-carbon-free kWh sales for their utility or for their participating retail customers. MRES will bill members a BEC premium for those sales. The premium is currently \$0.001 (one-tenth of 1 cent) per kWh (or \$1 per REC) and is in addition to the regular S-1 rate.
- Members offering the Retail Program will bill participating customers monthly for their BEC premium.

IMPORTANT DATES

1. Members can add or delete customers from the Retail Program at any time.
2. MRES will notify members of changes to the Green Energy adder for the coming year by **Oct. 1**.
3. Members will designate the percentage of their usage they want to cover with REC purchases in the coming year by **Nov. 15**.
4. MRES will provide members with an Environmental Footprint chart by **Dec. 1** to make environmental claims for the coming year.

Members will notify participating retail program customers by **Dec. 1** of any changes to the BEC premium and changes to the member’s Environmental Footprint that will impact participants’ bills.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have questions or need to request forms or other information, please contact your energy services representative.



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