

SMPA,

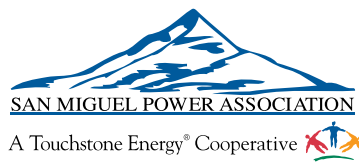
I'm interested in the Totally Green program but have a question.

How do we know that I will actually be using renewable energy since there is no apparent change in how I get my electricity? If I'm still connected to the same grid, it seems like my power is still coming from the same sources, No?

Note that I would be willing to pay such a premium if I could be confident that I was going 100% renewable.

Thanks for any info.

Unresolved in Ridgway



Dear Unresolved,

Thanks for your interest in our Totally Green Program. You raise a good question.

The Totally Green program uses Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) to provide you 100% renewably sourced electricity. RECs are the legally-recognized method of accounting for renewable power generation. RECs are the means by which power generators comply with the State Renewable Portfolio Standard requirement. When you participate in Totally Green you own the RECs.

The RECs represent the clean environmental attributes from those renewable power sources. They are essentially the certificates that prove a given quantity of power we supply comes from 100% renewable sources. See this White Paper to further understand. http://www.smpa.com/sites/smpa/files/PDF/Renewable%20rebates/SMPA_White_Paper_2019-RECs.pdf.

When you sign up for Totally Green, approximately 70 % of the Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) that you own come from our local hydroelectric and solar power plants (like Coal Creek Hydro, Pandora Hydro, and the Norwood Solar array) as well as from the nearly 300 SMPA members that have their own home solar systems. The other 30% come from solar, wind and hydro projects that feed our supply grid from afar.

Whereas the actual electrons feeding your house may or may not come directly from one of these renewable sources, the quantity of electrical energy (kWhs) that you consume is equal to the amount (kWhs) of the RECs we purchase on your behalf. This enables you to claim ownership of those environmental attributes and therefore be Totally Green.

The net proceeds from the Totally Green fund is exclusively used by SMPA to support new local renewable power generation. Many of your neighbor members, commercial businesses, and even we here at SMPA have chosen to leverage this new program to help promote the transition to a cleaner power supply.

I hope this helps explain this important question. Feel free to contact me if you have any other questions or if you wish to sign up for Totally Green.

Terry Schuyler

Energy Services Executive

P.O. Box 1150

Ridgway, CO 81432

Office: 970-626-5549 x232

Mobile: 303-883-6272

Terry.schuyler@smpa.com

www.smpa.com