

Program Highlights

- WREGIS is the largest renewable energy certificate (REC) tracking system in North America, allowing for the trading of RECs throughout much of the western part of the continent.
- This region-wide system uses independent, verifiable generation data to track RECs and ensure that renewable energy generation is not double counted.
- The California Energy Commission provided \$6.6 million to launch WREGIS and begin operating it.



California Energy Commission

WESTERN RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION INFORMATION SYSTEM

The California Energy Commission initiated and funded the Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System (WREGIS) as essential infrastructure for a working market for renewably generated electricity. WREGIS tracks renewable energy generation from participating facilities in the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) region and creates renewable energy certificates (RECs) for that generation. The RECs are ultimately permanently retired in the system to demonstrate compliance with a participating voluntary or regulatory renewable energy program. The system protects the credibility of the renewable energy market and prevents multiple counting of renewable energy generation.

The Benefits of a REC Tracking System

Large-scale development of renewable energy projects requires a functioning, credible mechanism for tracking and selling the electricity from those projects. WREGIS was launched in June 2007 to provide such a mechanism over a large geographic area. The WECC region covers all or part of fourteen states plus two Canadian provinces and northern Baja, Mexico.

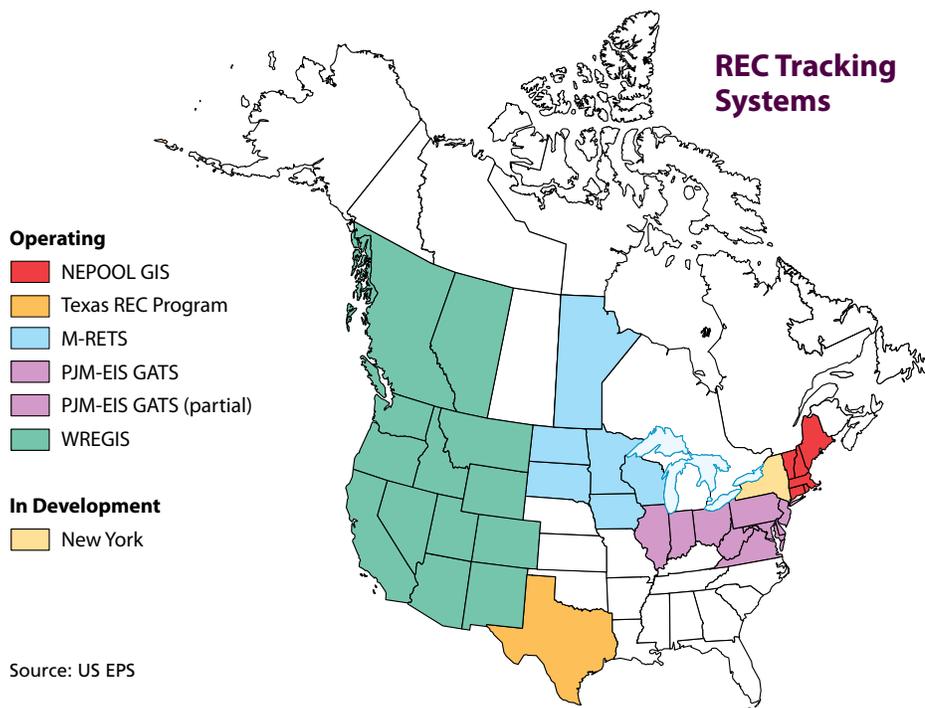
Because of WREGIS, those who wish to buy or sell renewable energy certificates (RECs) can have confidence that the RECs will be tracked accurately and that the electricity will be counted once and only once. WREGIS uses independent, verifiable generation data to track RECs that are assigned unique serial numbers. By ensuring the credibility of the renewable market, WREGIS fosters private and public investments in clean energy; allows state compliance programs, such as the California Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) and the renewables portfolio standards of other states and provinces, to work as intended; and encourages participation in the voluntary market for renewable energy.

A System at a Large Scale

WREGIS was created through a partnership among the California Energy Commission, the Western Governors' Association, the Western Regional Air Partnership, and WECC, with WECC serving as the administrative home of WREGIS. The California Energy Commission provided \$6.5 million for the system's design, development, and initial operating and maintenance costs.

WREGIS staff, from left: Andrea Coon (Administrator), Connie White (Director), Stephanie Roghaar (Administrative Assistant), Mary Frantz (Program Analyst)





Although other parts of the country had clean energy tracking systems before WREGIS, WREGIS includes more states, plus provinces, and is the only system that spans the territories of multiple authorities that manage the transmission system and the electricity market. WREGIS serves a large number of participating programs with diverse needs. It tracks requirements and eligibility for nine state and provincial RPS programs and two voluntary programs. The system fosters economies of scale and ultimately reduces the cost of complying with a regulatory or voluntary system in the region served by WREGIS.

Because of the large area and number of programs covered by WREGIS, the partner organizations carried out a vast effort to involve stakeholders and solicit input regarding WREGIS structure, content, and services. They surveyed over 400 industry, regulatory, and other stakeholders to determine which features were desirable in a clean energy tracking system.

WREGIS was designed to be able to export RECs to other tracking systems, and the California Energy Commission staff is monitoring how WREGIS could contribute to efforts to promote harmonization among the various REC tracking systems in North America.

A Forum for Stakeholders

Every month, at least four meetings are held so that stakeholders can discuss matters of policy, as well as system and programmatic changes. WREGIS participants have also formed working groups to solve particular issues requiring more time and subject matter expertise. To help the public and policymakers keep abreast of developments and trends in the western REC market, WREGIS provides public reports on REC activity within the system.

Since WREGIS launched on June 25, 2007, 203 account holders and 802 clean energy generators have registered and been approved in WREGIS. Those generators represent over 12,400 megawatts of installed capacity.

Judges' Comments

The California Energy Commission deserves a lot of credit for getting this large undertaking off the ground and funding it. It required an incredible amount of coordination over a large geographic area. The Commission wisely involved the many relevant stakeholders. WREGIS helps move the country towards a national renewable energy tracking system.



About the California Energy Commission

The Commission has been California's primary energy policy and planning agency since 1974. Since electric industry deregulation in 1998, the Commission has overseen funding programs that support public interest energy research; advance energy science and technology through research, development, and demonstration; and provide market support to existing, new, and emerging renewable technologies

For more information

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