



Renewable Claims Guide: Windsource®

Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) represent the environmental benefits associated with energy produced from a renewable source. When you participate in a renewable energy program, it is important to know when the RECs are included with the program, or when they are kept by Xcel Energy and used toward our company’s renewable energy goals. The REC is the piece that determines the statements or claims you can make regarding your renewable energy participation.

Windsource is an easy, low cost, low risk way to subscribe to clean wind energy and keep your RECs. In this program, the subscriber receives the RECs.



Examples of claims for Windsource subscriber¹

Acceptable	Unacceptable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I use wind energy • I have reduced my carbon emissions • I offset my carbon footprint with my Windsource subscription • By using ____ MWh of renewable energy, we have reduced our scope 2 emissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our system is powering our facility with all renewable energy • We have reduced ____ tons of carbon emissions annually

What are RECs and why are they important?

Renewable energy certificates or credits (RECs) are considered currency used to measure renewable energy produced and used to meet renewable energy goals. If the renewable program allows you to own the RECs, you can claim that they are offsetting your energy use or you are using renewable energy. If Xcel Energy keeps the RECs under the renewable program, you are unable to claim that you offset energy use with renewable energy.

¹The examples provided by Xcel Energy are not intended as legal advice. You should consult with your own attorney regarding claims that you may make regarding your subscription to Xcel Energy’s Solar*Rewards Community. For more information on acceptable and unacceptable claims, additional resources include:

www.epa.gov/greenpower/solar-power-use-claims

www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/sites/default/files/REC-BestPracticesClaims.pdf