

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (continued)

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Any residential or commercial customer who receives electricity from the Dept. of Public Utilities can elect to participate.

WHAT ADDITIONAL RATES WILL MEMBERS HAVE TO PAY?

It depends on the program that you select. If you are a residential customer or a small commercial customer, you can choose to purchase **LA Green** in blocks of 100 kilowatt-hours at a premium of 50 cents over the existing rate. Large commercial customers are offered the option of selecting 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 50 or 90 percent of monthly usage as the base upon which to compute the **LA Green** premium of a half cent per kilowatt-hour over existing rates.

Example: If a residential customer whose monthly electric consumption is 500 kilowatt-hours chose to join **LA Green** at the single block level (100 kilowatt-hours), twenty percent of this customer's electric consumption would be covered by **LA Green** for an additional 50 cents per month over the normal electric bill.

Example: If a large commercial customer's monthly electric consumption is 10,000 kilowatt-hours and the customer chose to join **LA Green** at the 10 percent level, (1,000 kilowatt-hours) the additional monthly charge for **LA Green** would total \$5.00 on top of the normal electric bill.

WHAT IF I WANT TO CANCEL?

Customers can cancel at any time. Email, call or visit the Dept. of Public Utilities/Customer Care Center at CustomerCare@lacnm.us, 662-8333 or 1000 Central Ave.

If the cancellation notification is received less than 1 day before the next billing cycle, the cancellation will be applied to the following billing cycle.

HOW DO I SIGN UP or LEARN MORE?

Call the Dept. of Public Utilities at 662-8333, email us at CustomerCare@lacnm.us, or visit the Customer Care Center at 1000 Central Avenue. Let us know which option of **LA Green** you would prefer and we will confirm the amount and the effective date. Charges for **LA Green** will be reflected on your bill. You may cancel at any time.

To better understand how Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) work, please view DPU's brief animated educational video,

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bHgj6MB4UxU>

*Think **LA Green** for
a cleaner & greener
New Mexico.*

Los Alamos Department of Public Utilities

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*LA Green
Renewable Energy for
Los Alamos*



Los Alamos Dept. of
Public Utilities

LA GREEN - Renewable Energy for Los Alamos

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Los Alamos customers can join **LA Green**, the renewable energy program, for as little as \$.50 per month. By joining **LA Green** you are purchasing Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) that support electricity generation from a renewable source such as wind, solar or qualifying hydroelectric plants.

LA Green membership is available to residential and commercial customers of the Los Alamos Dept. of Public Utilities. It is highly customizable, with members electing how much **LA Green** to purchase.

RATES & MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Residential & Small Commercial Customers can either:

- 1) Purchase **LA Green** in “blocks” of 100 kilowatt-hours per month for a premium of 50 cents over the existing charges.
 - a. The average customer might purchase up to three or four blocks,
 - b. The number of blocks purchased cannot exceed 90 percent of your minimum monthly usage from the previous 12 months,
- 2) Purchase **LA Green** for 90 percent of your monthly electric consumption at a half cent per kilowatt-hour over the existing charge. This means that the additional monthly billing amount for **LA Green** would fluctuate based on your actual usage.

Large Commercial Customers can:

- 1) Purchase **LA Green** at a half cent per kilowatt-hour over the existing charge at a level of your choice: 1 percent, 2 percent, 3 percent, 5 percent, 10 percent, 50 percent or 90 percent of your monthly usage. The additional monthly billing amount for **LA Green** would fluctuate based on your actual usage.

WHAT IS **LA Green**?

LA Green is a renewable energy program that purchases electricity and its associated Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) from sources such as wind, solar and qualifying hydroelectric power. Such energy is deemed “renewable” since the natural resource from which the energy is generated is virtually unlimited, as opposed to fossil fuels that rely on finite resources that are non-renewable.

IS IT REALLY CLEANER FOR NEW MEXICO?

Renewable energy reduces the need for conventional power generation, such as coal-fired power plants. It therefore reduces the emissions of pollutants into the air and streams by reducing the demand for this type of power. The number of qualified producers of renewable energy will increase regionally and nationally as long as renewable energy demand continues to grow.

WHY DOES **LA Green** COST MORE MONEY?

LA Green is generated from renewable energy resources such as wind, sun or qualifying hydroelectric power. Although such resources are clean and renewable, their output is intermittent. Monies earned from REC purchases help to fund the capacity cost of duplicate, conventional, carbon-fueled facilities which must be kept available to provide power when renewable resources wane (e.g. when wind doesn't blow, days are cloudy, night time etc). REC proceeds also defray the capital investment needed to construct renewable energy generating facilities.

DO THE COUNTY'S HYDRO PLANTS QUALIFY AS RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES?

The County owns two hydroelectric plants at El Vado and Abiquiu which produce clean energy. However, federal law requires that the facilities be constructed within a certain time frame, to qualify them as producers of RECs. Although the plants were built prior to this federal time frame, a newly constructed turbine at the Abiquiu plant does qualify as a producer of RECS under federal law. Hence a portion of the power produced at Abiquiu does qualify as renewable energy.

WHAT IF PURCHASED RECs ARE NOT ENOUGH TO MEET MONTHLY DEMANDS?

Since 2005 the DPU has purchased more than 15.2 million kilowatt-hours of RECs. An average household might use 500 kilowatt-hours of electricity per month. The DPU buys or produces additional RECs as required to meet customer demand fueled by **LA Green** memberships.

WHERE ARE **LA Green**'s RENEWABLE POWER SOURCES?

LA Green purchases and produces RECs from various places. When the sun is shining or the wind is blowing, qualified producers of renewable energy feed power into the electrical grid along with conventional energy producers. Renewable energy producers sell their power at market rates but, unlike conventional energy producers, they also sell renewable energy credits (RECs) for each kilowatt-hour generated which helps subsidize the costs of their facilities and facilitates the expanded production of renewable energy. The DPU has purchased RECs from various producers, and currently generates them at our Abiquiu Hydroelectric Plant to meet customer demand expressed through **LA Green** memberships. The DPU's inaugural purchase of 200,000 kilowatt-hours of RECs was generated at the New Mexico Wind Energy Center located in eastern New Mexico. Other purchases were made from out-of-state wind energy facilities.

HOW DO I KNOW THAT **LA Green**'s RECs WERE ACTUALLY GENERATED FROM A RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCE?

All RECs are certified by the suppliers to be from a renewable energy resource in compliance with industry standards. Internally, the DPU reports to the Los Alamos Board of Public Utilities on the amount of **LA Green** sold, and the production or purchase of RECs to cover sales.

HOW DO I SIGN UP FOR **LA Green**?

Call us at 662-8333, email us at CustomerCare@lacnm, us, or visit us at the Customer Care Center, 1000 Central Avenue.