



## Consent Item 6

**TO:** East Bay Community Energy Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Dan Lieberman, Sr. Manager, Account Services  
**SUBJECT:** Approval of 100% Renewable Energy Product Green-e Energy Certification  
May 16, 2018  
**DATE:**

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### Recommendation

Approve use of Green-e Energy certification for 100% Renewable Energy product.

### Discussion

There has been some interest from large corporate customers and the public regarding whether EBCE's 100% renewable energy product will be Green-e Energy certified.

#### **About Green-e**

Green-e is the national leader in clean energy certification, ensuring that green power products meet environmental and consumer protection standards, and that customers get what they pay for. Green-e makes it easy for businesses and individuals to purchase verified clean energy with confidence, and for consumers to choose sustainable products and services. Green-e is the standard used by other environmental certifications including LEED green building certification and U.S. EPA's Green Power Partnership.

#### **Supply**

Green-e's national standard has criteria governing what will be eligible for certification. Green-e's standards are not the same as the California Renewable Portfolio Standard, but there is considerable overlap. Eligible renewable resources for Green-e include wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, and hydropower, with some restrictions. For example, hydropower must be certified by the Low Impact Hydropower Institute, and all renewable energy facilities must have been brought online within the past 15 years.

#### **Demand**

At the current time, there is interest in Green-e certification from several of EBCE's Top 200 customers, representing millions of kilowatt-hours of demand.

**Discussion**

There is value to EBCE to obtain Green-e certification for our renewable energy service at the time of product launch. Third party certification adds credibility, confirming that the product meets environmental and consumer protection criteria, and is independently verified by a California-based non-profit. Other CCAs have obtained Green-e certification for their green power programs including MCE, Peninsula Clean Energy, Silicon Valley Clean Energy, and CleanPowerSF. In brief discussions with staff, they mentioned that the certification did create an administrative burden on staff, but that it also created trust and value with customers.

If EBCE does not pursue Green-e certification, there is some risk that some customers may pursue the purchase of Green-e certified Renewable Energy Certificates from another vendor.

It is worth noting that Dan Lieberman, EBCE's Senior Manager of Account Services, previously worked at Center for Resource Solutions managing the Green-e program. He then worked for seven years helping electric utilities with their Green-e certification and audits, and he obtained Green-e certification for Peninsula Clean Energy's ECO100 service.

**Fiscal Impact**

In addition to the cost of supply, EBCE would need to make two annual direct payments to participate in Green-e. There is a certification fee to pay to the San Francisco-based non-profit Center for Resource Solutions, the operator of Green-e certification, and a supply audit also needs to be conducted by an auditor. The annual cost of certification is \$5,000 plus a volumetric fee of \$0.031 per MWh (assessed the following year); and the direct cost of the audit would be about \$4,000. The audit and Marketing Compliance Review will consume some staff time.