



FAQs Midwest Renewable Energy Tracking System

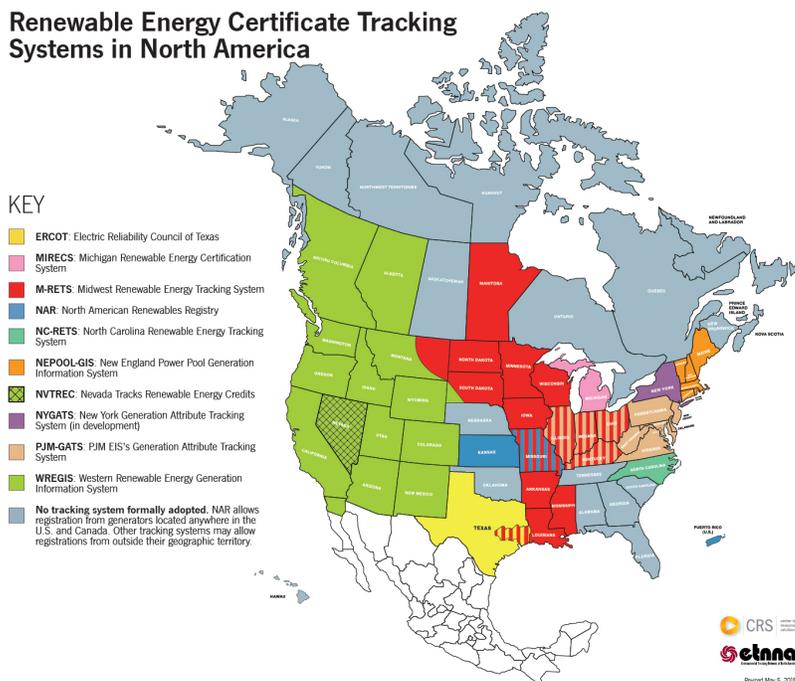


The Midwest Renewable Energy Tracking System (M-RETS) issues and tracks renewable energy certificates (RECs) from generation located within the M-RETS footprint. M-RETS is a non-profit organization with an independent governance board composed of generators, government, and NGO stakeholders. More information about participating generators, account holders, and REC activity is available at www.mrets.org.

Where does the data in M-RETS come from?

Most data are provided by third party control area settlements from revenue quality meters or by other qualified reporting entities. In the case of distributed generation, generators can self-report generation in MWh increments.

Renewable Energy Certificate Tracking Systems in North America



Are RECs tradable?

Yes, M-RETS certificates are tradable between M-RETS account holders, but they must be retired to demonstrate compliance with a state renewable portfolio standard (RPS) or to meet various certification standards for voluntary renewable energy purchases, such as Green-e™. M-RETS does not operate a trading platform; trades occur bilaterally outside of the registry.

What information is included on a REC?

Certificates include: a REC serial number; the month and year of generation; contact information for the generator; the type of account; the facility ID number, capacity, technology, and fuel type; the ISO/utility to which the facility is interconnected; and specific data fields required by individual state programs, as well as others.

What is an M-RETS whole certificate?

An M-RETS certificate, commonly referred to as a REC, represents all the non-energy attributes of one megawatt hour (MWh) of electricity generated by a power producer registered with M-RETS, or a certificate imported from a compatible tracking system that is converted into an M-RETS certificate. A “whole certificate” contains all its original attributes; none have been separately sold, given, or otherwise transferred to another party. These attributes include all credits, benefits, emissions reductions, offsets, and allowances attributable to that generation.

How does M-RETS prevent the double-counting of RECs?

M-RETS requires that registered generators use M-RETS for all their M-RETS certificate transactions. Also, an M-RETS certificate can only be held in one account at a time.



What types of generators are tracked in M-RETS?

M-RETS tracks over 60 types of energy technologies or fuel sources that are deemed eligible for RPS policies in at least one state. The most common are hydro, wind, biomass, biogas, waste heat recovery, and solar photovoltaics.

How does M-RETS define and implement policies related to M-RETS certificates and tracking?

M-RETS is not a policy-making or decision-making body, but verifies renewable energy generation and non-energy attributes from that generation. M-RETS does not determine eligibility for state, federal, or voluntary programs, nor does M-RETS determine the geographic eligibility or shelf life of M-RETS certificates. Those decisions are left to statutorily designated regulatory agencies or voluntary market certifiers. Once those decisions are made, M-RETS uses rules, procedures, and processes to verify compliance.

Does M-RETS link to other tracking systems?

Yes, M-RETS currently allows imports and exports from the Michigan Renewable Energy Certification System (MIRECS), the North American Renewables registry (NAR), and the North Carolina Renewable Energy Tracking System (NC-RETS).

How is M-RETS planning for EPA's proposed regulation of carbon dioxide emissions?

M-RETS can easily modify its reporting capabilities to support compliance with the Clean Power Plan. M-RETS is examining the potential roles it could play in helping states measure, verify, and track reductions in carbon intensity. Possible changes to M-RETS include tracking all power generation, expanding to track energy efficiency, or verifying and reporting on carbon emissions.



How are changes made to M-RETS operating procedures or processes?

M-RETS is responsive to stakeholder requests including making modifications due to changes in government statutes or regulations. For example, with approval from its Board of Directors, M-RETS can add fields to RECs (such as eligibility for specific compliance programs), register new types of generation facilities, or create new types of reports.

How much does M-RETS cost?

M-RETS collects its operating costs from registry account holders. The following fees are collected:

1. Annual Subscription Fee: ranges from \$50/year (micro-generator) to \$2,100/year (general account)
2. Issuance Fee: \$0.006/REC
3. Retirement Fee: \$0.016/REC
4. Import/Export Fee: \$100/transaction



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