

Renewable Business Programs Fact Sheet

CCAN is building a coalition of businesses and organizations like yours to take action for our city's environment through a Carbon Fee and Rebate Program. The program will charge large energy companies for each ton of fossil fuels they buy and sell in our city, and the fees they pay will go right back to the community in the form of rebates to DC residents. By signing up for these renewable energy options, your business will save energy and money in addition to helping our green energy economy grow.

Washington, D.C. is one of the rare places where it is very easy to exercise the right to choose your electricity supplier. With incentives, rebates, tax credits or financing through any one of the below programs, it makes good business sense to reduce or eliminate your carbon footprint. Eco-friendly operations can now align with a positive return on investment and allow your business to avoid the impacts of a carbon fee. With so many options to choose from when considering to eliminate your carbon load you can find which program fits the needs of your business best. Where your energy comes from is your choice. Eliminate potential impacts of a carbon fee, and while you're at it improve efficiency, the planet, and your bottom line!

Solar Programs

There are two ways to get involved in solar, either by installing panels yourself or getting the benefit of solar panels somewhere else. If you have access to a roof, the streamlined ability to get power straight from your roof means you avoid costs of generation, transmission, and distribution that are represented in your energy bill. Most new solar customers find that the cost of power decreases at least 20-30%. The Solar Investment Tax Credit (ITC) and Solar Renewable Energy Credit (SREC) also allows you to offset the initial capital investment through tax breaks. Still, if you are one of many businesses that can't put solar panels on your roof, there are options for you as well through community solar programs or investment. With community solar, the power company buys the power and you get to offset your bill.

3rd Party Financing, Incentives and Installation for your own roof...

- <https://www.directenergysolar.com/>
- <http://www.solarcity.com/>
- <http://www.seia.org/policy/>

Secure investment programs and ways to benefit from a solar panel somewhere else...

- <http://www.srectrade.com/corporate>
- <https://www.arcadiapower.com/solar>
- <https://solarbonds.solarcity.com/>

Efficiency Programs

[District of Columbia's Sustainable Energy Utility's \(DCSEU\) Business Energy Rebate Program](https://www.dcseu.com/for-my-business) -- Rebates are available to businesses and institutions for the installation of energy-efficient equipment, including: lighting, heating, HVAC, motors, compressed air, refrigeration, food service and others. The program is funded through the Sustainable Energy Trust Fund which is supported by a public benefits charge on utility bills. To be eligible for the program, participants must be a customer of Pepco Holdings, Inc and/or Washington Gas Light Co.

<https://www.dcseu.com/for-my-business>

[Groundswell Community Power Program for Organizations](http://groundswell.org/) -- Energy efficiency projects, though cost-saving in the long run, can have high upfront costs. This program partners with DCSEU and can help you select rebates and financing options to make sustainable projects easier on your budget. <http://groundswell.org/>

3rd Party Financing Options

[DC's commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy \(PACE\) program](#) -- PACE financing allows commercial owners in the district to borrow money to pay for energy improvements. The amount borrowed is typically repaid via a special assessment on the property over a period of years. In order to receive financing through the commercial PACE program, applicants must first have an energy efficiency audit performed on the property which shows energy cost savings can reasonably be expected to equal or exceed the cost of the improvements and interest on the loan. <http://doee.dc.gov/service/property-assessed-clean-energy>

3rd Party Green Power Options

The more general concept of green power marketing refers to selling green power in the competitive marketplace, in which multiple suppliers and service offerings exist. Electricity markets are now fully or partially open to competition in more than a dozen states. Below are the competitive marketers offering green power to retail or wholesale customers in Washington, D.C.

DC-Specific Retail Green Power Product Offerings			
Company	Enrollment Information	Resource Mix	Certification
Ambit Energy	Certified Green http://ww2.ambitenergy.com/rates-and-plans	Wind, Biomass	Green-e Energy
ClearView Electric	ClearGreen http://www.clearviewenergy.com/	100% Renewables	Green-e Energy
CleanChoice Energy	100% Clean 12 Month Rate Lock Plan https://cleanchoiceenergy.com/	100% Wind	Green-e Energy
Viridian Energy	Commercial Energy Program https://www.viridian.com/businessproducts.asp?	50% Renewables or 100% wind	—
WGL Energy (4)	CleanSteps® WindPower http://www.wglenergy.com/residential/renewable-energy	50% Renewables or 100% Wind	Green-e Energy

Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, http://apps3.eere.energy.gov/greenpower/buying/buying_power.shtml?state=DC

Buying RECs

Not every facility is able to change its operations to run on sources of green energy - but anyone can buy Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs). When renewable energy is generated, the entity gets both the energy and a Renewable Energy Credit (REC), which can be sold or used independently of one another. With the purchase of RECs, you support renewable energy creation somewhere else and also receive the benefit of it. Here you can find a list of REC marketers to choose from: http://apps3.eere.energy.gov/greenpower/buying/buying_power.shtml?state=DC&print.

Reducing Use

Finally, your business can always find ways to use less energy by switching to renewable or low energy operations. You can find the EPA's guide to renewable heating and cooling, for example, and a list of easy yet effective solutions for streamlining operations that suck more energy than needed, here: <https://www.epa.gov/rhc>, and here: <https://www.sba.gov/managing-business/running-business/>.



Stay Connected. To get involved, contact: Camila Thorndike, Carbon Pricing Coordinator, at camila@chesapeakeclimate.org or 240-396-2029. Learn more at <http://chesapeakeclimate.org/dc-carbon-fee>