

## Frequently Asked Questions on Green Power Options for Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard Customers

### What is renewable/green energy?

Energy produced from replenishable or infinite sources such as the sun, wind, biomass (including landfill methane gas), and water is considered renewable electricity. Electricity generated from renewable sources has a lower impact on the environment and public health than that produced from fossil fuel and nuclear resources for many reasons, including:

- 1) It emits little or no air emissions;
- 2) It does not produce harmful radioactive waste;
- 3) Its fuel sources do not need to be mined or extracted from the earth.

### What are my options for supporting renewable energy?

If you are a customer of the Cape Light Compact there are currently two basic ways you can support renewable electricity:

1) You can choose *Cape Light Compact Green*<sup>SM</sup> and support renewable energy each month through your electricity bill. For more information please visit our website at <http://www.capelight-compact.org/clcgreen.html>.

#### 2) Install Your Own Renewable Energy System

One of the most direct ways to support the generation of renewable energy resources is to install a system at your own home or business. There are a number of renewable energy technologies available for these purposes ranging from solar to small scale wind. For more information, visit [www.masstech.org](http://www.masstech.org) and [www.mass.gov/doer](http://www.mass.gov/doer).

If you want to choose *Cape Light Compact Green*<sup>SM</sup> but are not currently a Cape Light Compact customer, call us at (800) 381-9192 to enroll in this exciting program.

If you are an NSTAR basic/default service customer, you should contact NSTAR to learn about their recently announced renewable energy power supply program.

If you are on a competitive supply contract with a competitive supplier other than the Cape Light Compact, you should contact your supplier directly to find out what renewable energy programs they have available.

## **What is the difference between *Cape Light Compact Green<sup>SM</sup>* and NSTAR's renewable energy power supply program?**

*Cape Light Compact Green<sup>SM</sup>* is a green attribute program based on Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs). The sources of *Cape Light Compact Green<sup>SM</sup>* are as follows:

- 75% small hydroelectric (certified by the Low-Impact Hydro Institute)
- 24% landfill methane gas and wind, combined
- 1% solar, from installations throughout Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard

All of the resources in *Cape Light Compact Green<sup>SM</sup>* are located in New England. The Cape Light Compact recently purchased the RECs from the wind turbine at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy in Bourne. See the data on the MMA wind turbine by visiting <http://www.maritime.edu/l2.cfm?page=160>

NSTAR's renewable energy power supply program is based on energy/supply and RECs from wind contracts in New York and Maine.

### **What are "green attributes" or "certificates?"**

Green attributes are the environmental characteristics of a renewable energy resource. For every one megawatt-hour unit of electricity that is generated in New England, a corresponding "certificate" is produced. Each certificate documents the attributes or characteristics of the power source - information such as air emissions, fuel source, and date the facility began operating. These certificates are tracked through a region-wide accounting system called the Generation Information System ("GIS") to ensure that no double counting is allowed. There is a market for certificates associated with renewable energy resources because of consumers wishing to support cleaner energy and electricity retailers that need to meet renewable energy mandates. By choosing *Cape Light Compact Green<sup>SM</sup>* you will be matching renewable energy certificates with your energy use.

### **What is the price of *Cape Light Compact Green<sup>SM</sup>*?**

There are two options for those participating in *Cape Light Compact Green<sup>SM</sup>*; matching either 50% or 100% of your electricity usage to the purchase of RECs. If you elect the 50% option, the premium added to your supply price for electricity is \$0.009 per kWh, which translates to

an additional cost of \$4.50 per month for a residential customer using 500 kWh per month; for the 100% option, the premium is \$0.016 per kWh, which translates to an additional cost of \$8.00 per month for a typical residential customer who uses 500 kWh per month.

### **What is the price of NSTAR's renewable energy power supply program?**

NSTAR, similar to the *Cape Light Compact Green*<sup>SM</sup> program, will also be offering two options for basic service customers; a 50% and a 100% option. Both of these options will be offered at a premium to NSTAR's basic service price. Exact pricing for these options is unknown at this time since the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities still has to approve NSTAR's proposed pricing for their program. For more information go to

[http://www.nstaronline.com/residential/customer\\_information/nstar\\_green/nstar\\_green.asp](http://www.nstaronline.com/residential/customer_information/nstar_green/nstar_green.asp)

### **Is *Cape Light Compact Green*<sup>SM</sup> a CLEAN ENERGY CHOICE<sup>SM</sup> participant and what does this mean to my community?**

**CLEAN ENERGY CHOICE**<sup>SM</sup> is a program that benefits you and your community. When you pay a premium for *Cape Light Compact Green*<sup>SM</sup>, you are making a worthy contribution to the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative to support the development of clean energy sources. Through **CLEAN ENERGY CHOICE**<sup>SM</sup>, a program of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, up to 98% of the premium you pay for *Cape Light Compact Green*<sup>SM</sup> is deductible from your federal income taxes, if you itemize. Furthermore, MTC will match up to 98% of the premium you pay with two grants, funding clean energy projects benefiting both your community and the state's low-income residents.

The Massachusetts Technology Collaborative ("MTC"), a public agency of the Commonwealth and administrator of the Renewable Energy Trust, created the **CLEAN ENERGY CHOICE**<sup>SM</sup> program. **CLEAN ENERGY CHOICE**<sup>SM</sup> encourages the choice of renewable energy certificates from renewable energy facilities that have been defined as "new" by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Suppliers who participate in this program agree to abide by specified rigorous standards relative to information disclosure, pricing, and consumer protection. **CLEAN ENERGY CHOICE**<sup>SM</sup> is a service mark of the MTC.

## **Is NSTAR's renewable energy power supply program a CLEAN ENERGY CHOICE<sup>SM</sup> participant?**

Not at this time.

## **How does my electricity get to me?**

All New England states share one single network of power, called the electric grid. Generators from all over the region feed power into this grid and energy is drawn out on an as needed basis. Since electricity in New England is based on a regional mix, the electricity that is actually delivered to your home or business is determined by which power generators are located closest to you. The New England electric grid is managed and operated by an Independent System Operator ("ISO-NE"). ISO-NE is responsible for managing the dispatch of all power plants within the region so that there's always enough power being generated to meet the needs of the region.

## **How do I know renewable electricity will be delivered to my home?**

Whether you choose renewable electricity or standard electricity, you draw upon the "pool" of power that makes up the New England electric grid. While it is physically impossible to distinguish and deliver energy from specific generating plants to specific homes or businesses, by choosing renewable electricity you are ensuring that energy from renewable sources is being delivered to the power grid on your behalf, thus creating a cleaner, healthier overall energy mix.

## **Why does it cost more to support renewable energy?**

While many renewable energy resources, especially wind, are becoming increasingly cost competitive with fossil fuels, it is currently still more expensive to generate energy from renewables. Part of this is due to the heavy subsidies fossil fuels receive from our government, as well as the investments already made in our existing power infrastructure. It is expected by many that renewables will become more cost-competitive over time.

## **How do I sign up?**

You can sign up on our web site, <http://www.capelightcompact.org>. Or please call 1-800-381-9192.

## **What happens if I want to opt out of *Cape Light Compact Green*<sup>SM</sup>?**

After enrolling in *Cape Light Compact Green*<sup>SM</sup> you can cancel at any time. If you do decide to cancel, please call 800-381-9192.