



Renewable*Connect

Lock into new renewable energy with flexibility and control

Xcel Energy is approaching solar energy with the same determination that has made us the nation's utility leader in wind energy. We realize some of our customers want more choices when it comes to the type of power they use. That's why we offer a portfolio of clean energy offerings for customers looking for green power options.

When it comes to solar energy, our customers have different needs and interests, and we offer a range of solutions. Our recently proposed Renewable*Connect program gives customers a flexible, convenient, and affordable way to go solar.

Solar made simple

Renewable*Connect is an attractive option for customers who:

- Cannot, or do not want to, install renewable generation at their home or business.
- Prefer a shorter-term renewable power contract.
- Want to capture the economic benefits of renewables (including more predictable, less volatile future costs) with locked-in pricing.
- Appreciate knowing their green energy dollars are increasing the amount of clean, carbon-free renewable energy in Colorado.
- Want to be able to claim that they are using green energy by offsetting their energy use with certified renewable energy credits (RECs).

Benefits

It provides fast access to newly constructed renewable sources. Renewable*Connect will offer customers a subscription to a dedicated new solar power plant resource. You won't have to deal with long-term lease or loan offers, on-site solar panels or equipment maintenance.

It's flexible. Customers can choose to power some or all of their energy needs with this program. You pick the amount of Renewable*Connect solar power you want to purchase. We will offer month-to-month, five-year and ten-year subscriptions.

It offers more price certainty. Pre-determined and fixed price schedules will be set when you subscribe for the term of your contract. And the longer your contract, the more economical it could be.

It supports corporate sustainability efforts. For companies and organizations that have set sustainability goals, the program provides a mechanism to track and verify their renewable energy sources by having renewable energy credits (RECs) retired on their behalf.

Green-e certified

All Renewable*Connect energy will be Green-e certified to meet environmental and consumer-protection standards set forth by the nonprofit Center for Resource Solutions. Meet your renewable energy goals knowing your subscription energy meets stringent guidelines for the use and offsets of green energy. Learn more at www.green-e.org.

Pricing structure

As currently proposed, Renewable*Connect will be priced as an add-on to your current bill. There are two components, a **Renewable*Connect Charge** and a **Renewable*Connect Credit**:

Renewable*Connect Charge: This is made up of three parts— your contract locks in charges for the life of the contract.

- *Solar costs* – The cost of the energy delivered from the new Renewable*Connect solar power plant. This may change annually, and will be based on a pre-determined and fixed price schedule set when you subscribe.
- *Solar integration costs* – The cost to integrate that solar energy into our grid; a fixed value over the 20-year life of the program.
- *Marketing/administration costs* – The cost to market and administer the program, including IT upgrades to make the program available. This may change annually, and will be based on a pre-determined and fixed price schedule.

Renewable*Connect Credit: Subscribers also receive two financial credits.

- *Energy credit* – The value of the energy that Xcel Energy does not need to purchase or generate as a result of Renewable*Connect's new renewable resource. The credit will be calculated annually and will change annually, primarily based on changes in natural gas prices (the energy source typically avoided).
- *Capacity credit* – The value of energy capacity that Xcel Energy does not need to build or buy as a result of Renewable*Connect's new renewable resource. The credit will be fixed and locked for the life of the program.

Timeline and next steps

- *Late 2016* – Commission decision expected. If approved, Xcel Energy expects to issue a request for proposals (RFP) for the Renewable*Connect solar power plant resource immediately following a commission decision.
- *Spring 2017* – Renewable*Connect pricing determined, based on results of the RFP
- *Mid - to late 2018* – Program launches after construction

Looking for similar benefits available now, without long-term contracts? Check out Windsorce® – one of the nation's top green pricing programs with more than 80,000 subscribers and new, lower pricing available January 2016! xcelenergy.com/windsorce

Want to explore even more ways to go solar? Solar*Rewards® offers incentives for customers to install rooftop solar on their homes or businesses. Solar*Rewards Community® allows you to support a solar garden—with nothing on your roof and no hands-on maintenance. xcelenergy.com/solar