

Renewable Claims Guide: Solar*Rewards[®]

Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) represent the environmental benefits associated with energy produced from a renewable source. When you participate in a renewable energy program, it is important to know when the RECs are included with the program, or when they are kept by Xcel Energy and used toward our company's renewable energy goals. The REC determines the statements or claims you can make regarding your renewable energy participation.

In the Solar*Rewards program, the RECs are transferred to and owned by Xcel Energy in exchange for incentives.

Because the RECs are owned by Xcel Energy, there are limitations on what you, as a participant, can say about the RECs.



Examples of claims for Solar*Rewards participant¹

Acceptable

- We have installed onsite solar and traded our RECs to receive financial incentive from the solar energy produced.
- By participating in Solar*Rewards, I help supply electricity to our utility in order to meet its renewable energy goals
- I help increase the amount of solar energy on Xcel Energy's grid by installing onsite solar

Unacceptable

- I use solar energy
- We are using solar energy to reduce ____ % of our annual electricity use/meet our goal of ____ % renewable energy
- By participating in Solar*Rewards we are powering our facility and reducing our carbon footprint
- By participating in Solar*Rewards, we have reduced emissions

What are RECs and why are they important?

RECs measure renewable energy produced and used to meet renewable energy goals. If the renewable program allows you to own the RECs, you can claim that they are offsetting your energy use or you are using renewable energy. If Xcel Energy keeps the RECs under the renewable incentive program you participate in, you are unable to claim that you offset energy use with renewable energy.

¹The examples provided by Xcel Energy are not intended as legal advice. You should consult with your own attorney regarding claims that you may make regarding your subscription to Xcel Energy's Solar*Rewards Community. For more information on acceptable and unacceptable claims, additional resources include:

www.epa.gov/greenpower/solar-power-use-claims

www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/sites/default/files/REC-BestPracticesClaims.pdf