



Renewable Fuels

Quality Assurance & Consumer Protection Certification for the Voluntary Biomethane Market

Answering the Consumer Need for a More Sustainable Thermal Solution

The nonprofit Center for Resource Solutions expanded its widely adopted Green-e® certification program for voluntary environmental attributes into renewable fuels, starting with biomethane, also known as Renewable Natural Gas (RNG). While organizations are working to reduce energy consumption as well as electrify and use renewable electricity, many activities currently still use fossil natural gas, and consumers are looking for tools to reduce their carbon emissions now. Biomethane—purified or upgraded biogas made from the decomposition of organic materials—not only captures the potent greenhouse gas methane before it is released, but also displaces the use of fossil natural gas.

As with any new market, a quality standard must be set and oversight established to ensure consumer confidence. The Green-e® Renewable Fuels program meets these needs, as certified biomethane undergoes a thorough verification process to confirm that it is:

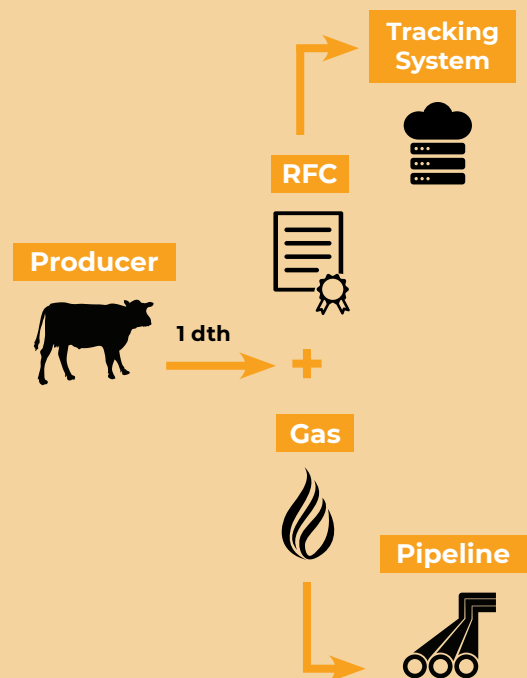
From sustainable projects. To ensure purchasers are having a positive impact, biomethane production emissions (including leakage) up to the point of pipeline injection must have a maximum carbon intensity (CI) score 10% lower than fossil natural gas. Carbon Intensity refers to the amount of greenhouse gas emissions released per unit of energy. CI scores that include pipeline leakage are disclosed to customers. Additional sustainability criteria look to verify that projects do not negatively impact local communities.

Verified. Sellers of Green-e® Renewable Fuel Certified biomethane are reviewed three times a year to ensure that they live up to their advertising and marketing claims, and that their customers are getting what they paid for. Certified biomethane is accounted for and tracked through the annual Green-e® Renewable Fuels verification audit process.

Above business as usual. Voluntary customers want to have an incremental impact to those already required by regulations. Therefore, certified biomethane cannot be counted towards state goals or benefit from compliance markets (e.g., RINs or LCFS credits).

What is a Renewable Fuels Certificate (RFC)?

An RFC represents the environmental attributes of 1 dekatherm of renewable fuels and can be sold bundled with gas or unbundled and paired with gas consumption. RFCs are essential for tracking renewable fuel production and delivery. Some also refer to RFCs as Renewable Thermal Certificates (RTCs).



Combining Biomethane with Carbon Offsets

Many fossil natural gas customers are only able to source a small amount of biomethane because of limited supply and high costs. Carbon offsets, a certificate representing the reduction of one metric ton (2,205 lbs) of carbon dioxide (or equivalent) emissions, allow these customers to offset emissions from remaining fossil natural gas consumption to net out emissions. Leveraging the existing **Green-e® Climate** program for carbon offsets, customers can source combined certified products of high-quality carbon offsets and biomethane.

Benefits of Certification

Consumer Credibility. The Green-e® brand is the leading third-party certification and verification program in renewable energy markets. It is recognized by many businesses as the gold standard for renewable energy sourcing.

Risk Reduction. Protects against double counting and claiming, creating confidence in clean energy purchases.

Quality Assurance. Certified renewable energy products meet rigorous environmental, sustainability, and marketing claims standards.

Stakeholder-driven standards. Developed by an Independent Governance Board, including important environmental stakeholder representatives such as the Union of Concerned Scientists, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), and CDP.

Find Out More

Contact Green-e® Renewable Fuels at fuels@green-e.org or (415) 561-2100.

To read program documents or learn where to buy Green-e® Renewable Fuels certified biomethane, visit www.green-e.org/renewable-fuels.

Brought to you by Center for Resource Solutions (CRS). CRS creates policy and market solutions to advance sustainable energy

A Track Record of Growing Voluntary Markets

Established in 1997, the Green-e® Energy program for voluntary renewable electricity has grown to certify over 90 million MWh in 2020. Over 90% of unbundled retail renewable energy certificates are Green-e® certified, and almost all the top performing utility green power programs in the United States are Green-e® certified. Green-e® certification helps utilities and regulators by adding another check in support of full transparency and consumer protection. Following these footsteps, the objective of Green-e® Renewable Fuels is to accelerate the adoption and drive voluntary demand of renewable fuels, while ensuring that the fuel is from sustainable renewable resources and meets the highest environmental standards. Additionally, annual audits ensure customers are protected in their purchase, facilitating verifiable usage claims.

Many market participants can certify biomethane in the U.S. and Canada through the Green-e® Renewable Fuels program, including:

- Renewable fuel producers
- Utilities
- Brokers
- Marketers
- Traders
- Retailers
- End-consumers

Green Hydrogen...and Beyond!

While initially focusing on biomethane, the Green-e® Renewable Fuels Standard will expand over time to certify additional renewable fuels, beginning with green hydrogen.



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