Green Pricing and Net Metering Programs, 2006

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Preface

The Energy Information Administration (EIA) reports historical data on green pricing and net metering programs in its report, the *Renewable Energy Annual*. This report, *Green Pricing and Net Metering Programs, 2006*, provides an overview and tables with historical data for 2002-2006. These tables correspond to similar tables presented in *Renewable Energy Annual 2006* and are numbered accordingly.

Data in this report is based upon electric industry participants information reported on Form EIA-861, "Annual Electric Power Industry Report." General information about the survey may be found here: <u>http://www.eia.doe.gov/oss/forms.html#eia-861</u>. Definitions for terms used in this report can be found in EIA's Energy Glossary: <u>http://www.eia.doe.gov/glossary/index.html</u>.

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Background

Green pricing/marketing programs allow electricity customers to voluntarily pay the additional costs for renewable energy through direct payments on their monthly bills. In return, the electricity provider guarantees that it will provide either directly or by contract that amount of renewable-based electricity.

The Energy Information Administration (EIA) collects information about green pricing programs on the Form EIA-861, "Annual Electric Power Industry Report," which is a survey of electric industry participants.¹ All respondents, except independent power producers and qualifying facilities, are asked to report their number of customers in green pricing programs by state and customer class.

Net metering programs usually permit customers - typically residential - operating very small generators for some of their needs to purchase extra electricity when needed and to sell back any excess power to the utility. Provisions vary by state and utility and often apply to solar or wind energy. In addition, pricing schemes vary by individual utility and customer circumstance. This system facilitates the ease of operating intermittent generators, such as those using solar and wind energy, and improves their economics. The EIA collects information on net metering on the Form EIA-861 in much the same manner as it does green pricing.

2006 In Review

After three years of gains (2003 through 2005) in which the number of electric industry participants and participating customers in green pricing programs all increased, 2006 was a year of relative decline (Table 4.H1). While the number of electric industry participants increased, the number of participating customers fell.

The total number of electric industry green pricing program participants increased from 442 in 2005 to 484 in 2006. However, the total number of customers enrolled in green pricing programs decreased by almost 32 percent, falling from 942,772 in 2005 to 645,167 in 2006.

The number of participating customers decreased in nine states, most notably in Ohio, which lost over 400,000 customers (Table 4.1). This loss was the result of Green Mountain Energy Co., a green power marketer, discontinuing service in Ohio. Citing regulatory hurdles and unexpected transmission charges, Green Mountain terminated its agreement to supply the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council program. This program,

¹ "Electric industry participants" include electric utilities, wholesale power marketers, energy service providers, and electric power producers.

which served residential and small commercial customers in northeast Ohio, was the largest retail electric aggregation program in the country.²

The state with the biggest increase was Oregon with a net gain of almost 17,000 customers, followed closely by New York, with a net gain of almost 16,000 customers.

Net metering programs have proliferated over the years. Electric industry participants and participating program customers have increased each year during the 2003 through 2006 period (Table 4.H2).

The total number of electric industry participants increased from 188 in 2005 to 232 in 2006. The total number of participating customers was 34,469 in 2006, an increase of 63 percent over 2005. Of this total, 31,323 or 91 percent, were residential customers. Thirty-five states and the District of Columbia reported gains of net metering customers, with the largest gain - 8,705 customers - reported by California (Table 4.2).³

http://www.dsireusa.org/summarytables/reg1.cfm?&CurrentPageID=7&EE=1&RE=1

² Austin Business Journal, <u>http://www.bizjournals.com/austin/stories/2005/10/24/daily30.html?from_rss=1</u>, October 26, 2005. A retail electric aggregation program combines customers in an effort to gain leverage in the deregulated market place. Bulk-buying allows the program to negotiate lower rates.

³ For details of individual state net metering programs, including some history, see the North Carolina Solar Center DSIRE database on this website:

	Electric	Participat	ing Customers		
	Industry	Custo	mer Class		
Year	Participants	Residential	Non-residential	Total	
2002	212	688,069	23,481	711,550	
2003	308	819,579	57,547	877,126	
2004	403	864,794	63,539	928,333	
2005	442	871,774	70,998	942,772	
2006	484	609,213	35,954	645,167	

Table 4.H1. Estimated U.S. Green Pricing Customers by Customer Class, 2002-2006

Note: Non-residential may include some customers for whom no customer class is specified.

Totals may not equal the sum of the components due to independent rounding.

Source: Energy Information Administration, Form EIA-861, "Annual Electric Power Industry Report."

	Electric	Participat	ing Customers		
	Industry	Custo	mer Class		
Year	Participants	Residential	Non-residential	Total	
2002	96	3,559	913	4,472	
2003	127	5,870	943	6,813	
2004	166	14,114	1,712	15,826	
2005	188	19,244	1,902	21,146	
2006	232	31,323	3,146	34,469	

Table 4.H2. Estimated U.S. Net Metering Customers by Customer Class, 2002-2006

Note: Non-residential may include some customers for whom no customer class is specified.

Totals may not equal the sum of the components due to independent rounding.

Source: Energy Information Administration, Form EIA-861, "Annual Electric Power Industry Report."

Table 4.1. Estimated U.S. Green Pricing Customers by State and Customer Class, 2005 and 2006

State Perticipants 2000/ Perticipants 2000/ 2006 2005 Alakan 4 157 6 Total Total Alakan 1 351 5 356 325 Arizona 3 1294/4 393 1293 5896 Adusta 1 45,57 1070 47,527 40,460 Colorado/ 25 46,948 1,143 48,093 40,409 Contaction 2 2,500 1,216 3,716 7,409 District of Columbia 6 2,500 1,216 3,716 7,409 District of Columbia 6 4,003 127 4,130 3,735 Invait 3 4,416 50 4,466 4,739 Idaba 6 4,003 127 4,130 3,735 Invait 3 4,416 50 4,466 4,739 Idaba 7 2,7301 1,227 1,417 1,430 Invaita <t< th=""><th></th><th rowspan="2">Electric Industry Particinants 2006ª</th><th colspan="5">Participating Customers</th></t<>		Electric Industry Particinants 2006ª	Participating Customers				
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Alaska 1 331 5 356 325 Arkanas -	Alabama	4	157	6	163	975	
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Akamsa ·< ·< ·< ·< ·< ·< ·< ·< ·< ·< ·< ·< ·< ·< ·< ·< ·< ·< ·< ·< ·< ·< ·< ·< ·< <t< td=""><td>Arizona</td><td>3</td><td>1,894</td><td>39</td><td>1,933</td><td>5,896</td><td></td></t<>	Arizona	3	1,894	39	1,933	5,896	
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Conacciant -	Colorado	25	46,948	1,145	48,093	40,409	
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New Hampshire - <	Nevada	3	379	0	379	384	
New Jersey 4 96 267 363 1.692 New Mexico 11 14,225 1,352 15,577 9,852 New York 9 21,604 827 22,431 6,577 North Carolina 22 9,124 356 9,480 7,887 North Dakota 12 5,824 22 5,846 6,857 Ohio 3 250 2 252 402,433 Oklahoma 9 10,657 635 11,292 10,754 Oregon 13 78,648 2,085 80,733 63,755 Pennsylvania 4 36,520 835 37,355 29,758 Rhode Island 2 4,410 106 4,516 3,477 South Carolina 13 3,229 306 3,535 2,455 South Dakota 7 620 20 640 715 Tennessee - - - - - Vermont 2 4,297 240 4,537 2,095 Virginia </td <td>New Hampshire</td> <td>-</td> <td>517</td> <td>-</td> <td>517</td> <td>-</td> <td></td>	New Hampshire	-	517	-	517	-	
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North Carolina 22 9,124 356 9,480 7,887 North Dakota 12 5,824 22 5,846 6,857 Ohio 3 250 2 252 402,433 Oklahoma 9 10,657 635 11,292 10,754 Oregon 13 78,648 2,085 80,733 63,755 Pennsylvania 4 36,520 835 37,355 29,758 Rhode Island 2 4,410 106 4,516 3,477 South Carolina 13 3,229 306 3,535 2,455 South Carolina 13 3,229 306 3,535 2,455 South Carolina 13 3,229 306 3,535 2,455 South Dakota 7 620 20 640 715 Ternessee - - - - - Vermont 2 2,661 17 2,678 3,009 Virginia 2 2,661 17 2,678 3,009 Wash	New York	9	21 604	827	22 431	6,577	
North Dakota 12 1.14 3.50 5.800 6.805 Ohio 3 250 2 252 402,433 Oklahoma 9 10,657 635 11,292 10,754 Oregon 13 78,648 2,085 80,733 63,755 Pennsylvania 4 36,520 835 37,355 29,758 Rhode Island 2 4,410 106 4,516 3,477 South Carolina 13 3,229 306 3,535 2,455 South Dakota 7 620 20 640 715 Tennessee - - - - - Texas 9 88,670 12,280 100,950 87,224 Utah 7 19,716 472 20,188 16,713 Vermont 2 2,661 17 2,678 3,009 Washington 25 35,145 841 35,986 31,351 West Vir	North Carolina	22	9 124	356	9 480	7 887	
Norm Databati 12 3.044 12 3.064 3.057 Ohio 3 250 2 252 402,433 Oklahoma 9 10,657 635 11,292 10,754 Oregon 13 78,648 2,085 80,733 63,755 Pennsylvania 4 36,520 835 37,355 29,758 Rhode Island 2 4,410 106 4,516 3,477 South Carolina 13 3,229 306 3,535 2,455 South Dakota 7 620 20 640 715 Tennessee - - - - - Texas 9 88,670 12,280 100,950 87,224 Utah 7 19,716 472 20,188 16,713 Vermont 2 2,661 17 2,678 3,009 Washington 25 35,145 841 35,986 31,351 West Vir	North Dakota	12	5 824	22	5 846	6.857	
Onlow J Los Los <thlos< th=""> <thlos< th=""> <thlos< th=""></thlos<></thlos<></thlos<>	Obio	3	250	22	252	402 433	
Oragon 13 78,648 2,085 80,733 63,755 Pennsylvania 4 36,520 835 37,355 29,758 Rhode Island 2 4,410 106 4,516 3,477 South Carolina 13 3,229 306 3,535 2,455 South Dakota 7 620 20 640 715 Tennessee - - - - - Texas 9 88,670 12,280 100,950 87,224 Utah 7 19,716 472 20,188 16,713 Vermont 2 4,297 240 4,537 2,095 Virginia 2 2,661 17 2,678 3,009 Washington 25 35,145 841 35,986 31,351 West Virginia - - - - - Wisconsin 57 30,037 1,298 31,335 39,701 Wyoming 7 3,531 75 3,606 3,150 <td>Oklahoma</td> <td>9</td> <td>10 657</td> <td>635</td> <td>11 292</td> <td>10 754</td> <td></td>	Oklahoma	9	10 657	635	11 292	10 754	
Pennsylvania 15 16,040 2,005 50,155 30,155 Pennsylvania 4 36,520 835 37,355 29,758 Rhode Island 2 4,410 106 4,516 3,477 South Carolina 13 3,229 306 3,535 2,455 South Dakota 7 620 20 640 715 Tennessee - - - - - Texas 9 88,670 12,280 100,950 87,224 Utah 7 19,716 472 20,188 16,713 Vermont 2 4,297 240 4,537 2,095 Virginia 2 2,661 17 2,678 3,009 Washington 25 35,145 841 35,986 31,351 West Virginia - - - - - Wisconsin 57 30,037 1,298 31,335 39,701 Wyoming 7 3,531 75 3,606 3,150	Oregon	13	78 648	2 085	80 733	63 755	
Total	Pennsylvania	4	36 520	835	37 355	29 758	
Andread 1 </td <td>Rhode Island</td> <td>2</td> <td>4 410</td> <td>106</td> <td>4 516</td> <td>3 477</td> <td></td>	Rhode Island	2	4 410	106	4 516	3 477	
South Dakota 7 620 20 640 715 South Dakota 7 620 20 640 715 Tennessee - - - - Texas 9 88,670 12,280 100,950 87,224 Utah 7 19,716 472 20,188 16,713 Vermont 2 4,297 240 4,537 2,095 Virginia 2 2,661 17 2,678 3,009 Washington 25 35,145 841 35,986 31,351 West Virginia - - - - Wisconsin 57 30,037 1,298 31,335 39,701 Wyoming 7 3,531 75 3,606 3,150	South Carolina	13	3 229	306	3 535	2 455	
Tennessee - - - - Texas 9 88,670 12,280 100,950 87,224 Utah 7 19,716 472 20,188 16,713 Vermont 2 4,297 240 4,537 2,095 Virginia 2 2,661 17 2,678 3,009 Washington 25 35,145 841 35,986 31,351 West Virginia - - - - Wisconsin 57 30,037 1,298 31,335 39,701 Wyoming 7 3,531 75 3,606 3,150	South Dakota	7	620	20	640	2,135	
Texas 9 88,670 12,280 100,950 87,224 Utah 7 19,716 472 20,188 16,713 Vermont 2 4,297 240 4,537 2,095 Virginia 2 2,661 17 2,678 3,009 Washington 25 35,145 841 35,986 31,351 West Virginia - - - - - Wisconsin 57 30,037 1,298 31,335 39,701 Wyoming 7 3,531 75 3,606 3,150	Tennessee	-	-	-	-	-	
Utah 7 19,716 472 20,88 16,713 Vermont 2 4,297 240 4,537 2,095 Virginia 2 2,661 17 2,678 3,009 Washington 25 35,145 841 35,986 31,351 West Virginia - - - - Wisconsin 57 30,037 1,298 31,335 39,701 Wyoming 7 3,531 75 3,606 3,150	Texas	9	88.670	12.280	100.950	87.224	
Vermont 2 4,297 240 4,537 2,095 Virginia 2 2,661 17 2,678 3,009 Washington 25 35,145 841 35,986 31,351 West Virginia - - - - Wisconsin 57 30,037 1,298 31,335 39,701 Wyoming 7 3,531 75 3,606 3,150	Utah	7	19716	472	20,188	16713	
Virginia 2 2,661 17 2,678 3,009 Washington 25 35,145 841 35,986 31,351 West Virginia - - - - Wisconsin 57 30,037 1,298 31,335 39,701 Wyoming 7 3,531 75 3,606 3,150	Vermont	2	4 297	240	4,537	2.095	
Washington 25 35,145 841 35,986 31,351 West Virginia - - - - Wisconsin 57 30,037 1,298 31,335 39,701 Wyoming 7 3,531 75 3,606 3,150	Virginia	2	2 661	17	2,678	3,009	
West Virginia - <	Washington	25	35 145	841	35 986	31 351	
Wisconsin 57 30,037 1,298 31,335 39,701 Wyoming 7 3,531 75 3,606 3,150 Total 484 609,213 35,954 645,167 942,772	West Virginia	-		-	-	-	
Wyoming 7 3,531 75 3,606 3,150 Total 484 609,213 35,954 645,167 942,772	Wisconsin	57	30.037	1 298	31 335	39 701	
Total 484 609,213 35,954 645,167 942,772	Wyoming	7	3 531	75	3 606	3 150	
Total 484 609,213 35,954 645,167 942,772		,	5,551	15	5,000	5,150	
	Total	484	609,213	35,954	645,167	942,772	

^a Includes entities with green pricing programs in more than one state. Note: Non-residential may include some customers for whom no customer class is specified. Dash indicates no data was reported for the state. Totals may not equal the sum of the components due to independent rounding. Source: Energy Information Administration, Form EIA-861, "Annual Electric Power Industry Report."

Table 4.2. Estimated U.S. Net Metering Customers by State and Customer Class, 2005 and 2006

	Electric Industry Participants 2006 ^a	Participating Customers					
State			2006			2005	
		Residential	Non-Residential	Total	Total		
		-	· · ·				
Alabama	-	-	-	-	13		
Alaska	-	-	-	-	-		
Arizona	4	185	3	188	152		
Arkansas	2	3	1	4	5		
California	19	24,160	1,972	26,132	17,427		
Colorado	17	380	25	405	145		
Connecticut	2	165	16	181	75		
Delaware	1	40	10	50	20		
District of Columbia	1	1	1	2	-		
Florida	5	41	7	48	29		
Georgia	1	1	0	1	1		
Hawaii	4	184	23	207	98		
Idaho	4	28	6	34	21		
Illinois	4	4	7	11	8		
Indiana	3	11	9	20	16		
Iowa	7	10	7	17	16		
Kansas	5	15	4	19	11		
Kentucky	3	3	2	5	3		
Louisiana	-	-	-	-	-		
Maine	1	3	0	3	8		
Maryland	5	13	0	13	9		
Massachusetts	5	454	104	558	246		
Michigan	5	9	4	13	7		
Minnesota	26	310	19	329	193		
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-		
Missouri	4	4	2	6	5		
Montana	2	41	5	46	253		
Nebraska	-	-	-	-	-		
Nevada	2	213	23	236	188		
New Hampshire	4	69	28	97	93		
New Jersey	5	1,789	203	1,992	604		
New Mexico	7	22	2	24	16		
New York	5	1,088	119	1,207	130		
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	-		
North Dakota	2	1	1	2	4		
Ohio	8	36	16	52	31		
Oklahoma	4	299	153	452	30		
Oregon	14	463	77	540	341		
Pennsylvania	6	145	29	174	134		
Rhode Island	2	81	21	102	81		
South Carolina	-	-	-	-	-		
South Dakota	-	-	-	-	-		
Tennessee	-	-	-	-	-		
Texas	9	375	56	431	163		
Utah	3	104	7	111	30		
Vermont	5	200	32	232	164		
Virginia	11	58	2	60	28		
Washington	13	124	34	158	96		
West Virginia	1			1	1		
Wisconsin	12	169	110	279	240		
Wyoming	7	22	5	27	11		
Total	232	31.323	3.146	34,469	21.146		
	232	01,020	5,110	2.,.07	21,110		

^a Includes entities with net metering programs in more than one state. Note: Non-residential may include some customers for whom no customer class is specified. Dash indicates no data was reported for the state. Totals may not equal the sum of the components due to independent rounding. Source: Energy Information Administration, Form EIA-861, "Annual Electric Power Industry Report."