

So, what exactly is a REC?

Ann Elsen

Energy Planner
Montgomery County, Maryland
240-777-7754

Ann.Elsen@montgomerycountymd.gov



Zero-emission “new” wind energy generated at a location within a defined geographic region determined to provide local air quality benefits, and at a facility meeting environmental criteria including minimal impacts upon wildlife.



Combustion of municipal solid waste combined with landfill methane and biomass

The consumer needs to know

1. exactly what it's made of
(generation mix), and....

INGREDIENTS: Ketchup (tomato concentrate, distilled vinegar, high fructose corn syrup, salt, spices, onion powder, natural flavor), brown sugar, honey, white wine vinegar, onion (onions, citric acid), red wine (contains sulfites), plum sauce (plums, sugar, salt, water, rice vinegar, modified corn starch, ginger, citric acid,

2.

Environmental effects, such as air emissions: NO_x, SO_x, mercury, and Carbon

Nutrition Facts			
<i>Serving Size 10 crackers (g)</i>		<i>% DV</i>	
Calories 110			
Fat 6 g		9%	
Saturated fats 1.5 g		13%	
+ Trans 2.0 g			
Cholesterol 0 mg		0%	
Sodium 190 mg		8%	
Carbohydrate 11 g		4%	
Fibre 0 g		0%	
Sugars 3 g			
Protein 3 g			
Vitamin A	0%	Vitamin C	3%
Calcium	0%	Iron	4%

3. When it was made



4. Where it was made



5. Has it already been sold to someone else, or used to meet RPS or disclosure requirements?



Or, is it included in my power purchase ?

To determine
actual
environmental
benefits,

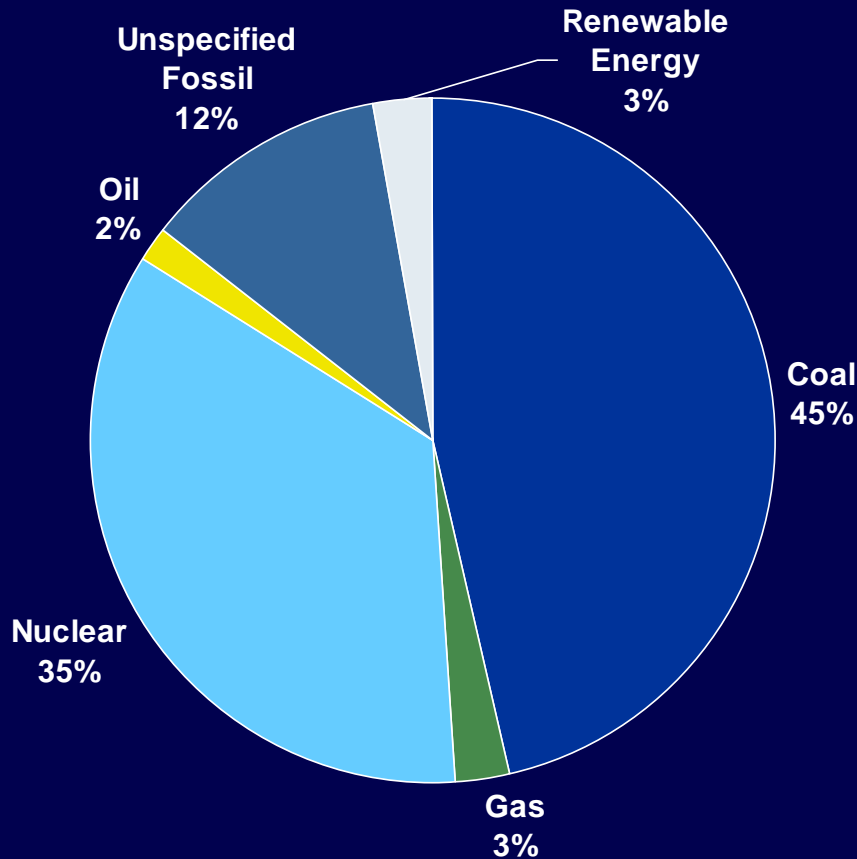
I need to
compare what I
purchased...



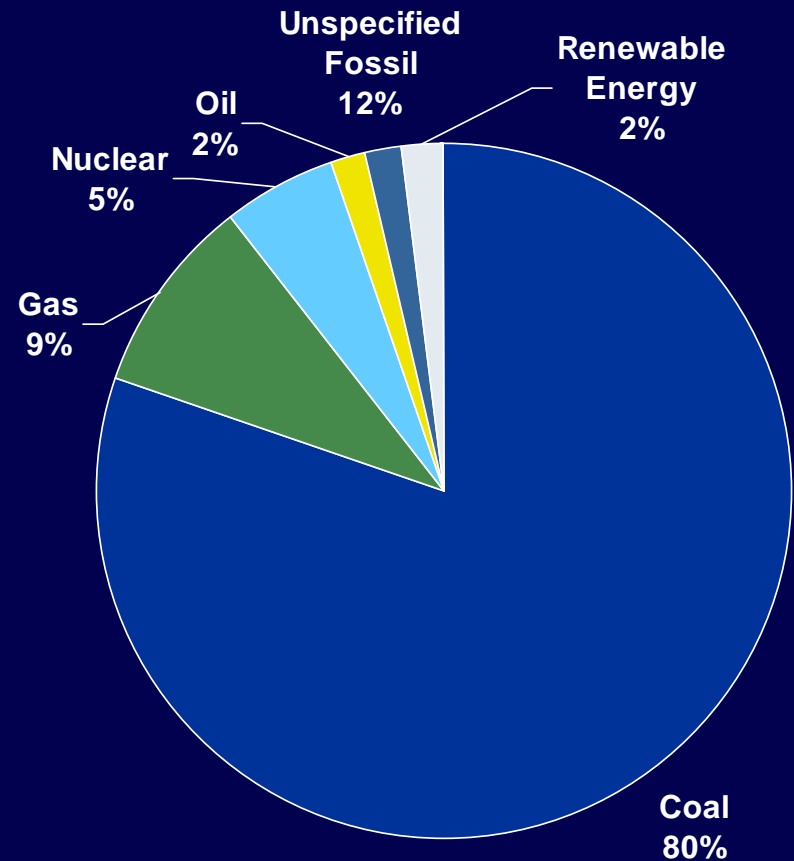
...to what is offset...



Regional Average

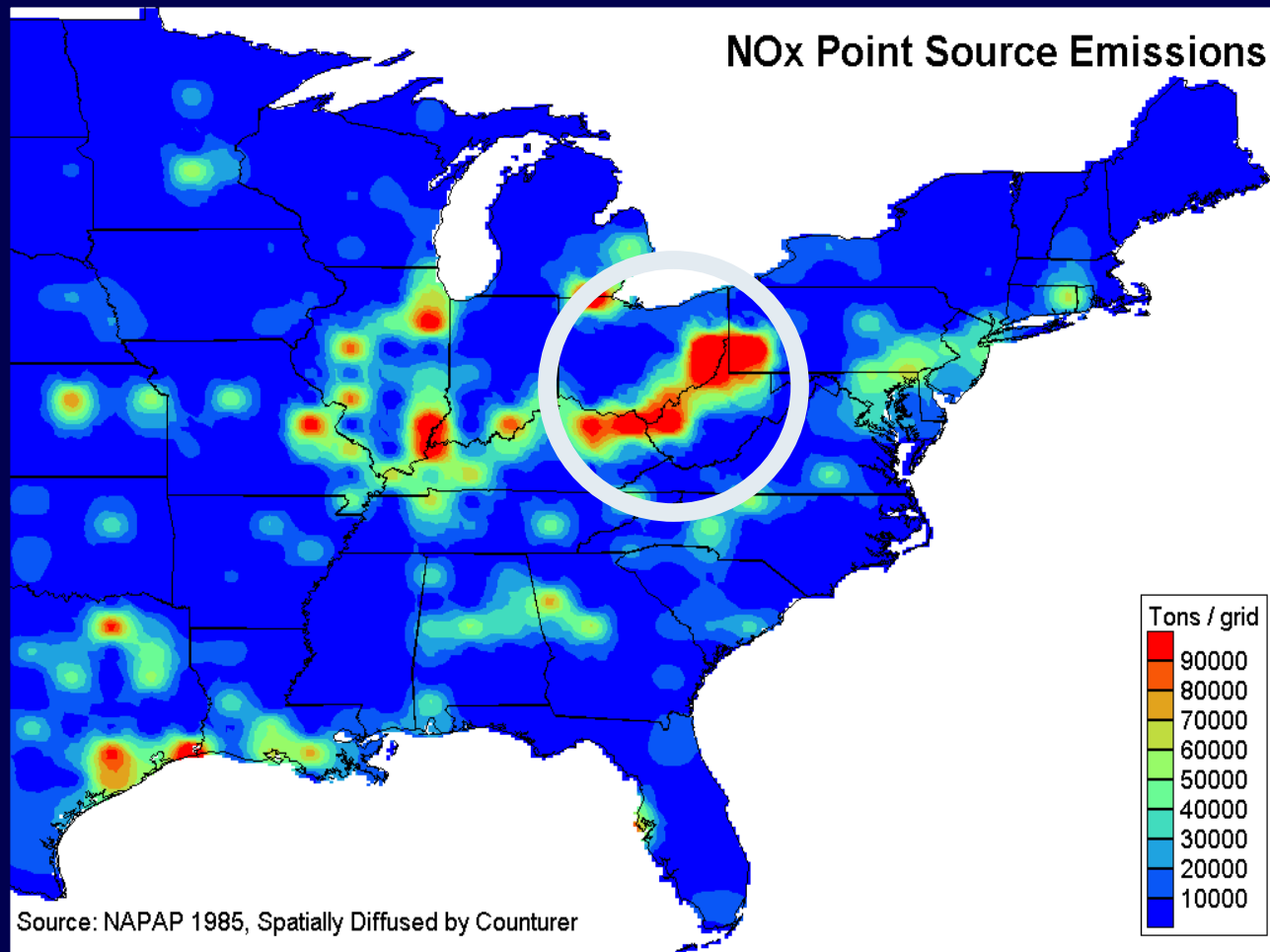


My Supplier



...by comparing it to what I would otherwise be buying, or...

...or by looking at actual generation dispatch changes in the area in which offsets occur.



Which is the NOx “allowance?”



Is it an additional commodity to be traded on an open market, or an integral part of the renewable energy product?

A universal definition of a REC would help to answer such questions as:

- Does it include all environmental attributes?
- Is the voluntary market separate from compliance markets?
- How local is the generation?
- Is the time at which generation occurs defined?
- Exact fuels, sources, emissions, and other environmental impacts.

The End

