### Climate Change Policy and Voluntary Markets

The Role of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

28th Annual Utility Energy Forum

Granlibakken Conference Center, Tahoe City, Calif.

Jennifer Martin Center for Resource Solutions

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# **Center for Resource Solutions**

- CRS is an NGO, U.S. 501.c.3
- Established in 1997
- Focus on environmental issues, renewable energy and energy efficiency policy
- We work in the US and internationally



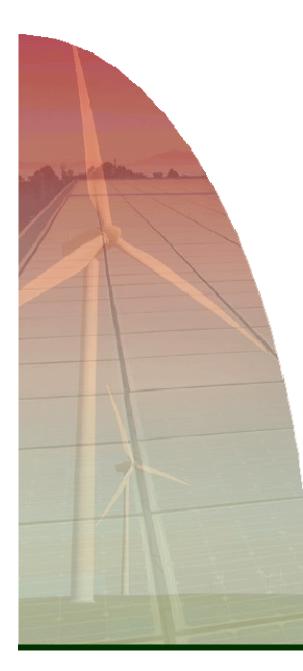
# CRS (cont.)

<u>Mission:</u> To make it easier for people and organizations to use renewable energy and energy efficiency as tools for mitigating global warming

Funding:35% Foundations15% Government50% Certification Feesand Expert Assistance

(2008 estimated)

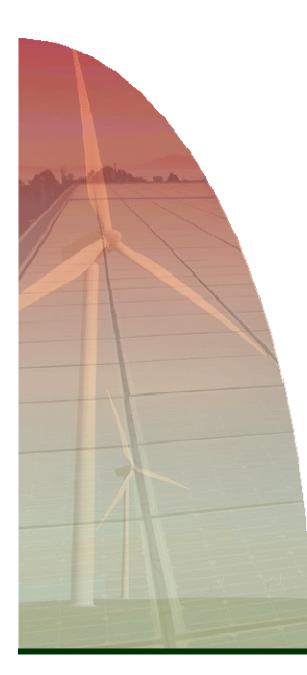




# **CRS Stakeholders**

- Consumers of renewable energy and climate "offset" products
- Renewable energy market players
  - Generators
  - Sellers of renewable energy products
- Environmental community
  - Leading environmental and consumer protection organizations on our advisory and governance boards
- Our funders





# What We Do

#### Support Individual and Corporate Action

- Green-e Energy
- Green-e Marketplace
- Green-e Climate
- Carbon Neutral Alliance

### **Energy & Environmental Policy**

- State
- Federal
- International







# CRS and Western Climate Policy

- CRS active in both California and WCI processes
- Carbon cap and trade regulatory design is very important for the growth of renewable energy and energy efficiency markets
- Special consideration must be given to preserve carbon value of voluntary RE and EE actions



## Major Issues in Cap and Trade Design Relating to RE and EE

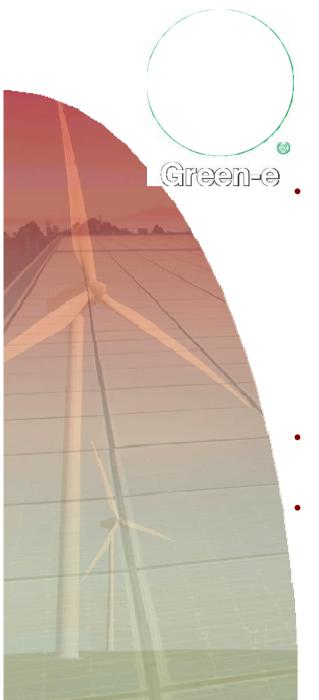
- Allocation of Allowances
- How RE and EE are modeled into the cap
  - Voluntary RE and EE- Need to preserve benefits created by voluntary actors
  - Compliance programs should directly incent investments in EE and RE
- Emissions tracking and accounting



# **CRS Role in Voluntary Markets**

- Consumer Protection and Market Organization
  - Green-e Energy
  - Green-e Climate
- Graan-a Promoting businesses and organizations that make
  - meaningful commitments to renewable energy and reducing **GHG** emissions





# Green-e Program Governance

- Independent Governance Board
  - Natural Resources Defense Council
  - Union of Concerned Scientists
  - Environmental Defense Fund
  - WWF
  - Regulatory Assistance Project, and
  - Several other environmental and industry leaders.
- All standards and policies developed through open stakeholder consultations
- Associate Member of the International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labeling (ISEAL) Alliance



 Consumer protection program for renewable energy products, established 1997

Green-e

- Covers all 50 states and Canada
- Certification of three product types
  - Renewable energy certificates (RECs)
  - Renewable electricity sold in competitive retail and wholesale markets
  - Utility green pricing programs

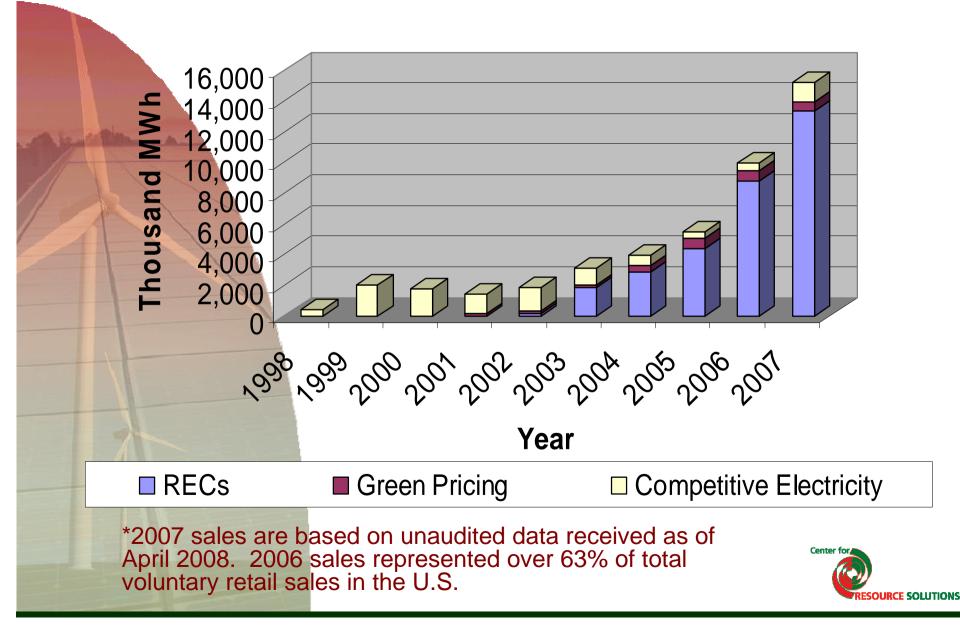


# What Functions Does Green-e Energy Provide?

- Green-e Energy Standard defines eligible renewable electricity products
  - Eligible resource types
  - Product specifications and exclusions
  - Additional requirements for utility green pricing programs
- Verification ensures that there is clear ownership and no double counting of renewable energy attributes
  - Independent audits
  - Electronic tracking systems
- Code of Conduct requires disclosures and monitors sellers
  - Consumer Product Content Label and product disclosures
  - Marketing material reviews



#### Green-e Energy Certified Sales by Product Type, 1998-2007\*



# Green-e Warketplace

- Program enables companies and organizations to use the Green-e logo
- Logo use attracts customers to utility green pricing programs
- Intel recently bought 1.3 million MWh of Green-e Energy Certified RECs, the largest renewable energy purchase in history

The Green-e Logo next to claims adds validity, credibility and independent verification consumers want this assurance.

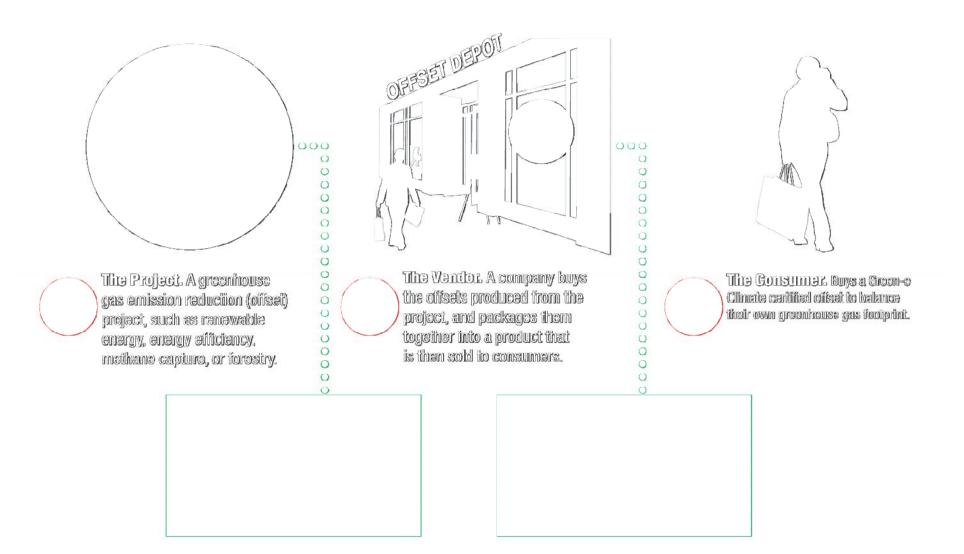




- Consumer protection program for greenhouse gas emission reductions (aka "offsets")
- Certifies "offset" products sold at retail level
- Standard and program developed through advisory group and stakeholder processes 2006-2007



How Green-e Climate certification works, from project to consumer.





# What Functions Does Green-e Climate Provide?

- Requires GHG reductions are independently certified to be real, verified, permanent, enforceable and additional
  - Can include a variety of project types, including energy efficiency, renewable energy, methane capture, and biological sequestration.
- Verifies that consumers get what they pay for -- supply and sales audit
- Ensures consumers are given full and accurate product disclosures





# Contact

Jennifer Martin Deputy Director Center for Resource Solutions 415.561.2104 imartin@resource-solutions.org

www.resource-solutions.org www.green-e.org

