

Release Date: April 2009
Next Release Date: April 2010

DOE/EIA

Green Pricing and Net Metering Programs 2007

April 2009

Energy Information Administration
Office of Coal, Nuclear, Electric and Alternate Fuels
U.S. Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

This report is available on the Web at:
<http://www.eia.doe.gov/fuelrenewable.html>

This report was prepared by the Energy Information Administration, the independent statistical and analytical agency within the U.S. Department of Energy. The information contained herein should be attributed to the Energy Information Administration and should not be construed as advocating or reflecting any policy of the Department of Energy or any other organization.

Contacts

This report was prepared by the staff of the Survey Operations Team, Coal, Nuclear, and Renewables Division, Office of Coal, Nuclear, Electric and Alternate Fuels. Questions about the preparation and content of this report may be directed to Fred Mayes, Senior Technical Advisor at e-mail fred.mayes@eia.doe.gov, (202) 586-1508 or Louise Guey-Lee, at e-mail louise.guey-lee@eia.doe.gov, (202) 586-1293.

Preface

The Energy Information Administration (EIA) reports detailed historical data on green pricing and net metering in its report, the *Renewable Energy Annual*. This report, *Green Pricing and Net Metering Programs, 2007*, provides an overview and tables with state level historical data for 2006 and 2007. These tables correspond to similar tables to be presented in chapter 5 of the *Renewable Energy Annual 2007* and are numbered accordingly.

Definitions for terms used in this report can be found in EIA's Energy Glossary: <http://www.eia.doe.gov/glossary/index.html>. General information about all the EIA surveys with data related to renewable energy and referenced in this report can be found here: <http://www.eia.doe.gov/oss/forms.html>.

Contents

Green Pricing and Net Metering Programs, 2007.....1

Tables

Green Pricing and Net Metering Programs, 2007.....	1
Table 5.1 Estimated U.S. Green Pricing Customers by State and Customer Class, 2006 and 2007.....	4
Table 5.2 Estimated U.S. Net Metering Customers by State and Customer Class, 2006 and 2007	5

Illustrations

Green Pricing and Net Metering Programs, 2007.....	1
Figure 5.1 U.S. Green Pricing Customers, 2003-2007	2
Figure 5.2 U.S. Net Metering Customers, 2003-2007	3

Green Pricing and Net Metering Programs, 2007

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 if available. 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.

2007 Year in Review

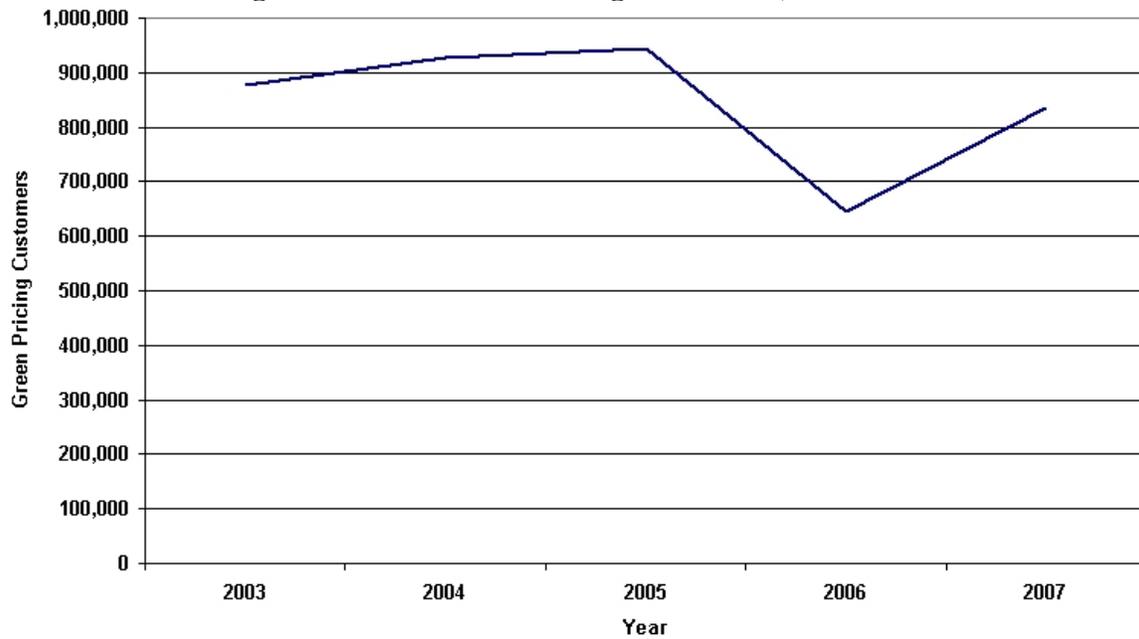
Green Pricing Programs

After a dismal year in 2006 when the number of green pricing customers fell by almost 300,000, the market for green pricing customers rebounded across the nation in 2007 (Table 5.1 and Figure 5.1). The number of customers in green pricing programs increased by 192,795 to 835,651 in 2007. Texas led this increase with 41,384 new customers, which brought its total to 142,334 or 17 percent of the market. Oregon and Maryland followed with 19,862 and 18,906 new customers respectively. By year’s end, 537 electric industry participants in 46 states and the District of Columbia reported having green pricing customers. Ninety-three percent of the customers were residential.

The two states with the most customers, Texas and Oregon, accounted for 29 percent of green pricing customers nationwide. Of all the states with a sizeable number of green pricing customers, only New York and North Dakota experienced any significant decline in number of customers.

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

Figure 5.1 U.S. Green Pricing Customers, 2003-2007



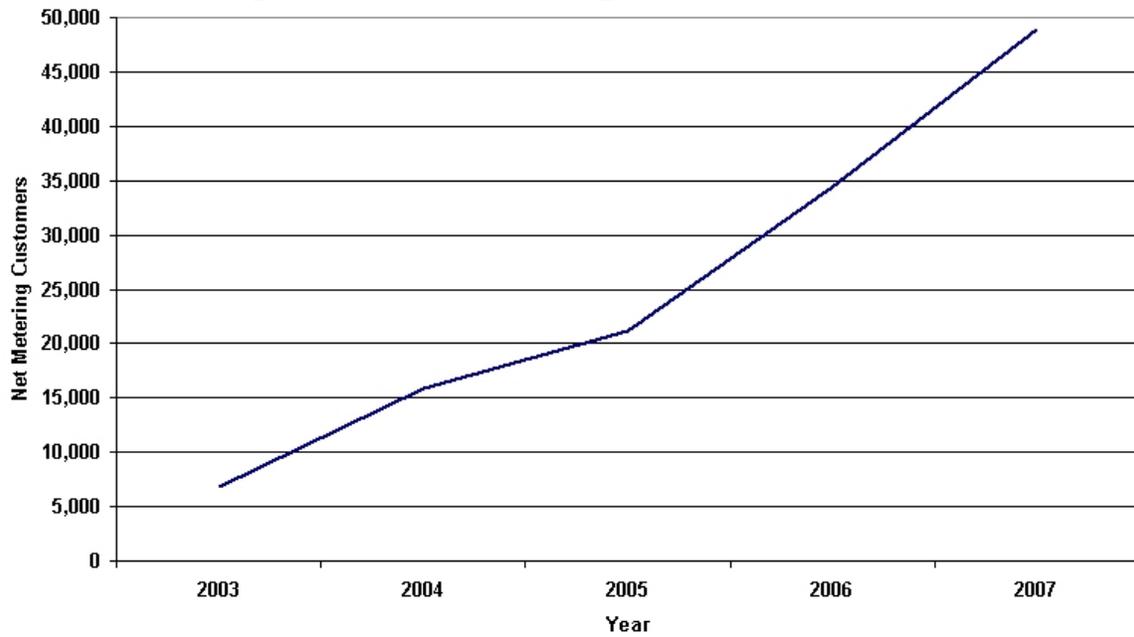
Source: Energy Information Administration, Form EIA-861, “Annual Electric Power Industry Report.”

Net Metering Programs

Although the number of customers in net metering programs remains a tiny share of total customers, growth has been rapid (Figure 5.2). The total number of customers in net metering programs increased by 45 percent to 48,820 in 2007 (Table 5.2). California, already the largest source of net metering customers with 72 percent of the national total, had the largest increase of 8,779 customers, while New Jersey increased by 1,223 customers. California and New Jersey’s success in 2007 was due in some measure to their support of solar energy development, which included the promotion of favorable rebate programs and other incentives.

In 2007, 288 electric industry participants in 47 states and the District of Columbia reported having green pricing customers. Ninety-two percent of the customers were residential.

Figure 5.2 U.S. Net Metering Customers, 2003-2007



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

Table 5.1 Estimated U.S. Green Pricing Customers by State and Customer Class, 2006 and 2007

State	Electric Industry Participants 2007 ¹	Participating Customers			
		2007			2006
		Residential	Non-Residential	Total	Total
Alabama	9	580	5	585	163
Alaska	1	520	10	530	356
Arizona	5	9,125	160	9,285	1,933
Arkansas	-	-	-	-	-
California	11	56,380	2,296	58,676	47,527
Colorado	23	55,635	1,866	57,501	48,093
Connecticut	3	90	6	96	-
Delaware	9	7,322	1,592	8,914	2,732
District of Columbia	3	1,351	3,503	4,854	3,716
Florida	6	37,536	297	37,833	29,301
Georgia	19	8,135	173	8,308	5,983
Hawaii	3	4,698	40	4,738	4,466
Idaho	6	4,669	148	4,817	4,130
Illinois	8	3,859	33	3,892	2,770
Indiana	14	4,244	55	4,299	2,039
Iowa	45	8,385	808	9,193	8,562
Kansas	1	1	-	1	-
Kentucky	13	1,322	16	1,338	889
Louisiana	-	-	-	-	-
Maine	2	2,266	228	2,494	2,146
Maryland	4	40,058	15,896	55,954	37,048
Massachusetts	5	5,882	273	6,155	5,655
Michigan	8	13,002	194	13,196	7,992
Minnesota	106	43,428	606	44,034	32,342
Mississippi	1	3	-	3	3
Missouri	17	1,417	22	1,439	459
Montana	13	974	21	995	460
Nebraska	5	6,831	60	6,891	4,887
Nevada	3	513	1	514	379
New Hampshire	1	-	1	1	-
New Jersey	3	146	295	441	363
New Mexico	13	19,339	1,934	21,273	15,577
New York	10	20,142	1,715	21,857	22,431
North Carolina	22	11,992	394	12,386	9,480
North Dakota	10	5,065	21	5,086	5,846
Ohio	14	1,784	5	1,789	252
Oklahoma	10	10,645	642	11,287	10,161
Oregon	17	97,400	3,195	100,595	80,733
Pennsylvania	4	38,301	798	39,099	37,355
Rhode Island	2	4,776	111	4,887	4,516
South Carolina	14	4,362	404	4,766	3,535
South Dakota	7	615	17	632	640
Tennessee	-	-	-	-	-
Texas	18	125,849	16,485	142,334	100,950
Utah	6	22,873	533	23,406	20,188
Vermont	2	4,281	236	4,517	4,537
Virginia	2	1,304	2	1,306	1,334
Washington	25	42,949	936	43,885	35,986
West Virginia	-	-	-	-	-
Wisconsin	60	34,252	2,092	36,344	31,335
Wyoming	8	9,090	4,135	13,225	3,606
U.S. Total	537	773,391	62,260	835,651	642,856

¹Includes entities with green pricing programs in more than one state.

- = No data reported.

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

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

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

Table 5.2 Estimated U.S. Net Metering Customers by State and Customer Class, 2006 and 2007

State	Electric Industry Participants 2007 ¹	Participating Customers			
		2007			2006
		Residential	Non-Residential	Total	Total
Alabama	-	-	-	-	-
Alaska	1	1	-	1	-
Arizona	8	1,092	54	1,146	188
Arkansas	7	19	-	19	4
California	21	32,509	2,401	34,910	26,131
Colorado	18	255	24	279	138
Connecticut	2	336	28	364	181
Delaware	1	117	24	141	50
District of Columbia	2	11	1	12	2
Florida	8	160	25	185	48
Georgia	3	20	-	20	1
Hawaii	4	355	59	414	207
Idaho	4	51	9	60	34
Illinois	4	5	4	9	11
Indiana	4	26	16	42	20
Iowa	10	20	9	29	17
Kansas	3	10	-	10	19
Kentucky	5	9	3	12	5
Louisiana	1	9	1	10	-
Maine	1	5	5	10	3
Maryland	6	97	2	99	13
Massachusetts	6	820	160	980	558
Michigan	7	14	1	15	13
Minnesota	27	325	24	349	252
Mississippi	-	-	-	-	-
Missouri	6	10	-	10	6
Montana	3	303	106	409	46
Nebraska	1	-	1	1	-
Nevada	3	311	33	344	236
New Hampshire	4	110	34	144	97
New Jersey	5	2,863	352	3,215	1,992
New Mexico	10	241	16	257	23
New York	4	1,807	8	1,815	1,143
North Carolina	5	6	14	20	-
North Dakota	3	4	-	4	2
Ohio	10	106	36	142	52
Oklahoma	1	10	-	10	31
Oregon	13	637	77	714	540
Pennsylvania	7	221	48	269	174
Rhode Island	2	95	11	106	102
South Carolina	1	1	3	4	-
South Dakota	1	1	1	2	-
Tennessee	-	-	-	-	-
Texas	11	562	37	599	412
Utah	5	134	9	143	111
Vermont	6	302	42	344	232
Virginia	12	108	5	113	60
Washington	20	451	183	634	158
West Virginia	4	8	-	8	1
Wisconsin	14	278	65	343	279
Wyoming	8	51	3	54	27
U.S. Total	288	44,886	3,934	48,820	33,619

¹Includes entities with green pricing programs in more than one state.

- = No data reported.

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

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

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