

Clean Fuel Standard Participation Guidance

Retiring Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs)

Introduction

This guidance document details how entities must document credit claims using Renewable Electricity Certificates (RECs) retired in the Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System (WREGIS) or another comparable, recognized REC tracking system. RECs are contractual instruments that convey the right to claim the environmental attributes of renewable electricity to the holder and can be retired in the [Clean Fuel Standard](#)¹ to lower the carbon intensity of certain electricity uses.

REC Eligibility

The requirements for offsite renewable electricity claimed through RECs are located in [WAC 173-424-630\(5\)](#)².

- RECs must be certified by the WREGIS.
- RECs must be generated in or after 2023.
- RECs must be generated from facilities located in the Western Electricity Coordinating Council region.
- RECs must be recorded and retired in WREGIS.
- Unbundled RECs must meet the safeguards to prevent double counting outlined in [WAC 194-40-420](#)³.

All RECs submitted to claim credits through quarterly reports or residential EV charging must meet the requirements of that section and Chapter 173-424 WAC in general. Quarterly reports must be submitted on time. CFS credits cannot be claimed for reporting periods that have closed except for residential charging of electric vehicles by utilities or the EV manufacturers.

For those using RECs from eligible electric generators that Ecology has deemed as having a carbon intensity of zero, generators should use the fuel pathway code WAELEC002-R to claim credits.

The RECs used for retirement must meet the Ecology's vintage requirements, which is 2023 or later. Once generated, RECs must be retired within three quarters. For example, if a REC is generated in Q1, it may be retired in Q1, Q2, or Q3.

Pathway Application Options for Low-CI Electricity

In order to claim low-CI electricity, a fuel pathway application must be certified through the Alternative Fuels Portal (AFP). For instructions on registering for an AFP account and submitting a fuel pathway application, reference the [AFP User Guide](#)⁴.

There are two fuel pathway application types for low-CI electricity: a Lookup Table pathway or a Tier 2 pathway. The application type will depend on the type of resource used to generate renewable electricity.

¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Air-Climate/Reducing-Greenhouse-Gas-Emissions/Clean-Fuel-Standard>

² <https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=173-424&full=true#173-424-630>

³ <https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=194-40>

⁴ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2302001.html>

According to [WAC 173-424-630\(5\)\(a\)](#)⁵, the options for demonstrating the use of electricity with lower than utility-specific CI by retiring RECs are through:

- Participation in power purchase agreement or utility renewable electricity product. In this case, the fuel pathway applicant in AFP and RECs retiring entity in WREGIS must be the electric utility. The reporting entity that claims credit generation for the electricity used in transportation must demonstrate according to [WAC 173-424-630\(7\)](#)⁶.
- Procurement and retirement of RECs in WREGIS. In this case, the fuel pathway applicant in AFP and RECs retiring entity in WREGIS must be the reporting entity or its designee that claims credit generation for the electricity used in transportation.

The following table may be referenced to determine REC eligibility and pathway application type by fuel type:

Renewable electricity type	REC generated in or after	Carbon intensity	Pathway Application Type
Solar	January 2023	Deemed CI of Zero	Lookup Table
Wind	January 2023	Deemed CI of Zero	Lookup Table
Hydropower (subject to certain conditions)	January 2023	Deemed CI of Zero	Lookup Table
Geothermal	January 2023	Deemed CI of Zero	Lookup Table
Ocean Energy (wave or tidal)	January 2023	Deemed CI of Zero	Lookup Table
Biomass	January 2023	Generator-specific fuel pathway in AFP	Tier 2
Biodiesel	January 2023	Generator-specific fuel pathway in AFP	Tier 2
Biogas	January 2023	Generator-specific fuel pathway in AFP	Tier 2
Fuel Cell	January 2023	Generator-specific fuel pathway in AFP	Tier 2

Documenting REC Retirements for Quarterly Reports

Registered parties should follow the instructions in this guidance to document their REC retirements. The only REC tracking system currently recognized by Ecology is the Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System, or WREGIS.

In WREGIS, RECs must be placed into a retirement subaccount named for the fuel pathway code that you are using them to claim in the program, along with the quarter and year for which you are retiring RECs. If you are

⁵ [https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=173-424&full=true#173-424-630::~text=the%20following%20qualifications%3A-\(a\)-Renewable%20energy%20certificates](https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=173-424&full=true#173-424-630::~text=the%20following%20qualifications%3A-(a)-Renewable%20energy%20certificates)

⁶ [https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=173-424&full=true#173-424-630::~text=for%20energy%20efficiency.-\(7\)-Utility%20renewable%20electricity](https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=173-424&full=true#173-424-630::~text=for%20energy%20efficiency.-(7)-Utility%20renewable%20electricity)

retiring RECs to claim zero carbon electricity under WAELEC002-R, you should title the subaccount with that fuel pathway code. For example, “Washington CFS WAELEC002-R Q1 2023”.

After you have retired the RECs for a quarterly report, use the upload supplemental documentation feature for that quarterly report to upload **both** the PDF and Excel copies of the WREGIS retirement report into the Washington Fuels Reporting System.

If you are having another entity purchase and retire RECs on your behalf, they must provide you with REC retirement reports from WREGIS where they have:

1. Created a retirement subaccount with name of your organization as it appears in WFRS and the Fuel Pathway Code the RECs are being retired to claim. For example: ABCCorp_WAELEC002-R
2. Followed the retirement instructions above

Failure to submit REC retirement records with the quarterly reports where you are claiming credits is grounds for Ecology finding those credits to be invalid. If this occurs, Ecology will remove those credits from your account under the [WAC 173-424-700](#)⁷, the authority to suspend, revoke, or modify.

Documenting REC retirements for residential EV credit generation

RECs should be retired in the same manner as outlined for quarterly reports. Because residential credit generation is done outside of the quarterly reports, Ecology will request the retirement reports be submitted via email to WFRSAdmin@ecy.wa.gov. Ecology will inform utilities of the amount of electricity used for residential charging prior to issuing residential credits.

ADA Accessibility

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6831 or email at ecyADAcordinator@ecy.wa.gov, or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341

⁷ <https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-424-700>