

# An Overview of the U.S. Renewable Energy Certificate Markets

Massachusetts Electric
Restructuring Roundtable
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## **Presentation Overview**

- California
- Texas
- PJM
- NEPOOL: Massachusetts
  - o Prices
  - o Concerns
  - o Supply & Demand
  - o Perspectives
  - o Solutions?





### California: fast facts

- RPS passed mid-September
- Mechanics haven't been specified yet—currently based on a bundled product, but might move to certificates?
- 20% by 2017; increase of ~1% a year
- SoCal Edison and PG&E have 80% of market
   Already get ~12% from renewables; expected to hit 20% by 2012.
- SDG&E starting from 0%, but has already purchased some of their needs.

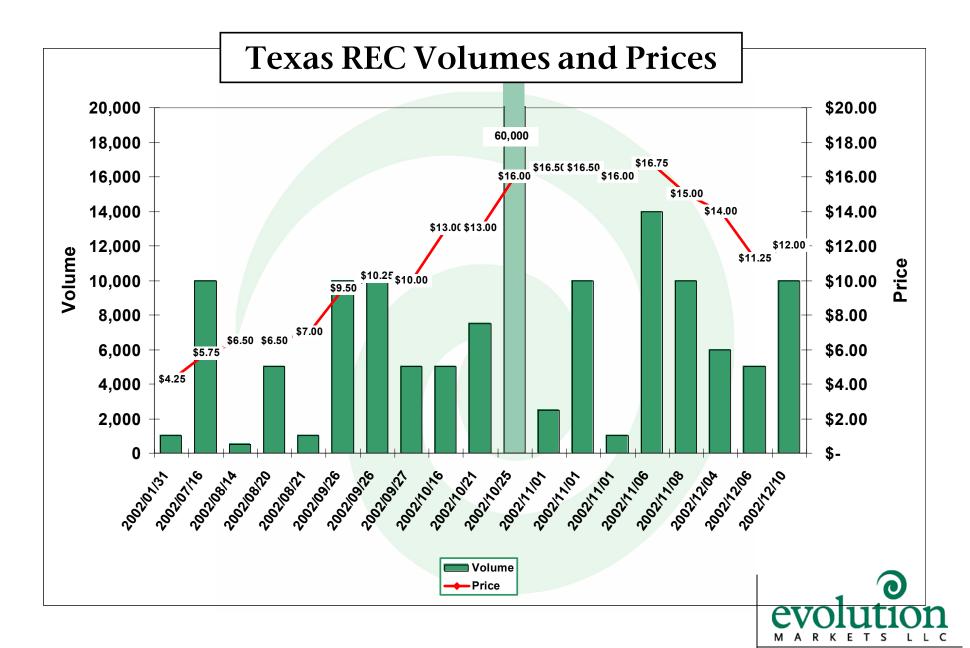


#### **Texas:** fast facts

- Uses GIS system
- First in nation to trade
- Program success has been striking:
  - o 400 MW mandated for 2002-3, but
  - o 1000 MW already on line
- Market participants notably more willing to take risk
- Two key factors:
  - o Certificates can be traded at any time
  - o Certificates can be banked for 3 years



**New Markets. New Solutions.** 





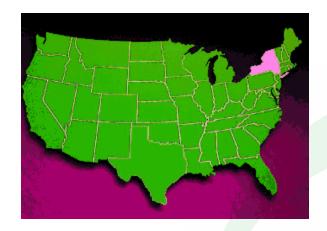
#### **PJM: fast facts**

NJ Interim RPS mandates LSEs to source a percentage of their load from renewables:

	Class I	Class II
2002	0.5%	2.5%
2003	0.75%	2.5%

- o Class I = "pure"—solar, wind, biomass, landfill
- o Class II = small hydro (<30 MW), MSW
- Class I prices around \$4, Class II prices around \$2.50
- Officially, no trading of certificates yet
  - GATS Working Group meets monthly
  - o Certificate-based system by 2004?
- However, green-for-brown swaps being done



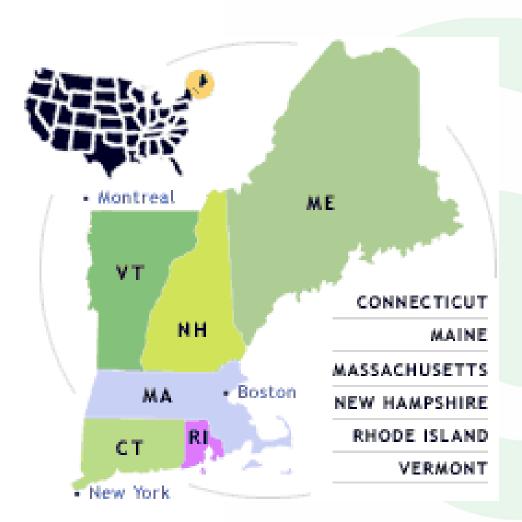


#### **New York: fast facts**

- Environmental disclosure (labels)
- No RPS yet; under consideration?
  - o Executive Order 111 mandates 20% renewable energy for state facilities by 2010.
  - o NYPA issuing RFP for 50 MW of wind generation for 10-15 years
- No tradable certificates yet;
  - o however, feasibility study underway
- Cost of importing power to NEPOOL?



# **NEPOOL**



#### **Mass. New Certificates:**

- Prices
- Concerns
- Supply & Demand
- Perspectives
- Solutions



# **Prices**

- Certificates have traded between \$15 and \$28; average has been around \$23, but have heard prices as high as \$30.
- However, extremely difficult to get LSEs to buy forward at this level.
- Downward trend in asking prices as trading period draws to a close.



# **Concerns**

- Without forward sales → difficult to establish a forward price curve
- Project developers look to forward price curves
- Limited ability to bank certificates a disincentive to "be long"
- Inability to trade certificates at any time means buyers unwilling to take on risk

# Level playing field?

Different perspectives...

#### **Generators:**

LSEs:

- Generator's (nameplate) capacities are public info
- Quantity of certificates generated is public info
- By and large, generators are smaller entities, have less time & resources to devote to market analysis, negotiation, etc.
- Express frustration at what they perceive to be unfair advantages for LSEs

- Load is estimated
- Distribution of load is estimated
- Have staff assigned to manage portfolio

Express frustration at what they perceive as generators taking advantage of a "windfall"

New Markets. New Solutions.

# **Supply and Demand?**

#### Most market participants agree that:

- The combined generation for 2002-2003 will be slightly larger than 2003 needs.
- However, in 2004, although a portion of 2003 certificates can be banked forward,
  - o the remaining demand must be met with 2004 generation
  - o the minimum percentage will increase to 1.5%

→Some LSEs will have to make the \$50 Alternative Compliance Payment.



# Catch-22?

- Thus, there is no disagreement that more generation will have to come online to meet demand from 2004 onward.
- However, project developers need contracts for the power and certificates (usually at least a 5-year term) to secure financing.



#### Solutions?

- Minimize obstacles to trading certificates
  - o Market capitalization will increase
  - o Project development will increase
- Guarantee generators a minimum price?
  - o Forward curves are key
- Imports?
  - o Unappealing to NEPOOL generators, but...
  - o Potential for reciprocal benefits if NY gets RPS
  - o Limited percentage as a safety valve?
- Other states' RPS
  - o Increased demand for new projects



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