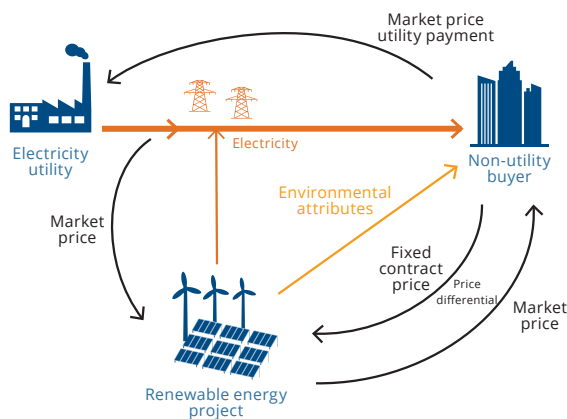


Renewable energy for non-utility companies and institutions

Renewable energy prices are dropping, making it easier for companies to purchase renewable energy to meet sustainability targets or carbon compliance at affordable prices.

Growing trend in U.S.

There is a growing trend in the United States for corporations and institutions to purchase renewable energy directly from developers to meet sustainability targets. This is called “non-utility procurement” and is often done through a process called a “virtual power purchase agreement” (VPPA).



Virtual power purchase agreement

1. Non-utility customer contracts with a renewable energy developer to increase renewable energy generation.
2. Renewable energy developer sells energy at market price. Non-utility customer pays or receives the difference between market price and contract price. Non-utility customer can buy their electricity from any provider.
3. Renewable energy developer also sells the environmental attributes of the renewable energy to the non-utility customer.

Result: Non-utility customer has increased the amount of renewable energy generation in the system, and can apply the environmental attributes toward their sustainability targets.

The perfect place for non-utility procurement in Canada

Alberta is the perfect place to start non-utility procurement in Canada. It has a deregulated market that provides buyers the flexibility to enter into contracts directly with generators, along with a target of 30 per cent renewable energy by 2030. Thousands of megawatts of renewable energy projects are under development and ready for buyers, thanks to the province’s great wind and solar resources.

Contact

Sara Hastings-Simon
Managing Director, Clean Economy Program
Pembina Institute
sara@pembina.org | 403-269-3344 x109



Read more

Report: *Plugging In: Opportunities to procure renewable energy for non-utility companies and institutions in Alberta*
www.pembina.org/pub/plugging-in

Blog: *Perfect timing for renewables: Why the time is right for Alberta to lead in non-utility procurement of renewable energy*
www.pembina.org/blog/perfect-timing-renewables