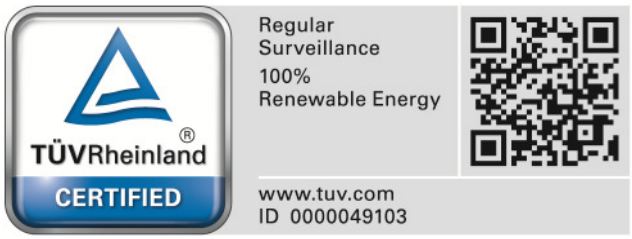
High quality green electricity
Audited by TÜV Rheinland

– European Green: Catalogue of Criteria 1.1 –



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Background

Climate protection and energy policy need a long term perspective. The great ambitions on the level of the European energy policy are driven by climate change, pressure on energy resources, increased dependency on imports and the pressure to securely and reliably provide energy for all customers at affordable prices.

In 2007 the European Union set the stage for an integrated energy and climate policy by adopting the Third Energy Package. Thereby, the EU made clear that energy and climate policy are to be seen as closely linked and integrated projects. Within the Third Energy Package, essential groundwork for energy and climate policy has been done. A triangle of goals has been defined. The three cornerstones of this triangle are: Security, competitive capacity and sustainability. Meanwhile, in the European landscape of energy and climate politics, a great number of diverse regulatory areas have emerged. Nevertheless, the cornerstones are still upheld. These are: diversification of energy sources, affordable energy for consumers and climate friendly energy production.

The label is meant to represent the diversity of renewable energy sources as well as a “consolidated” Europe”. This means that the Guarantees of Origin (GoOs) used for this label can utilise the whole range of renewable energy sources and that these GoOs (have to) come from more than one country.

At the same time, more and more citizens are interested in purchasing climate friendly and green electricity. People want a secure, sustainable, affordable and, therefore, cost competitive energy supply. Furthermore, customers place a high value on the expansion and development of renewable energy. Therefore, they demand that their energy suppliers have a high percentage of renewables in their portfolio.

The audition and certification of green electricity products by TÜV Rheinland Energy GmbH (TÜV Rheinland) – an independent auditor – is designed to guaranty transparency and credibility to customers. This is achieved by communicating clear and relevant criteria to the customers. The upholding of which is observed by TÜV Rheinland. The results are then publicized.

The following catalogue defines the criteria that determine which certificates of origin qualify for the label HKN NEU 100. This is supervised by TÜV Rheinland. The criteria define and describe the minimal requirements the emitters of certificates have to uphold in order to qualify for HKN NEU 100.

The following catalogue defines the criteria that determine which GoOs and GoO-blends qualify for the label European Green (ID 49103). This is supervised by TÜV Rheinland. The criteria define and describe the necessary precautions and minimal requirements that have to be upheld in order to qualify for the European Green standard.

Obligation to Prove Energy Origin and Type of Energy Generation

1. Sustainable Electricity Production

- The green energy feature of the label European Green is obtained by ensuring that the Guarantees of Origin (GoOs) used for it come only from renewable energy sources.
- The following energy sources and technologies are hereby understood to be renewable: hydro power, wind power, power from biomass, geothermal energy and solar power. Certification of GoO takes place in MWh chunks. This means that all amounts of GoOs plant operators can claim

have to be MWh-sums that are divisible without remainder. The GoOs have to be clearly and unequivocally ascribed to a distinct source.

- GoO are issued in accordance with article 15 of the directive 2009/28/EG agreed to by both European parliament and council on April 23, 2009. The directive was issued in order to promote the usage of renewable energy. Accordingly, a register of GoOs is kept at the German Federal Environment Agency (Umweltbundesamt: UBA).
- European Green is based on GoOs which document and ensure origin and ecologic properties of the electricity gained from renewable energy sources..

2. Diversity of energy sources

- The aims pursued are avoidance of the excessive promotion of a single technology and cost efficiency: These goals are pursued in order to secure the realisation of the European energy system transformation in the long term.
- Therefore, the GoOs within the framework provided by European Green should back a distinct variety of renewable energy sources which consists of a blend of controllable and of fluctuating energy sources: hydro power, wind power, power from biomass, geothermal energy and solar power.
- As defined within the framework of the respective contracts, GoO-packages sold under the European Green label have to come from at least four distinct renewable energy sources:
  - the share of any energy source included has to be at least 5% and can be at most 65%
  - the combined share of biomass, geothermal and solar energy has to be at least 15%.

3. Diverse countries of origin

- European Green is an attempt to contribute to an ambitious and important project: the transition of the European energy supply systems into one unified, interconnected and sustainable energy system. Therefore, it relies on and is also an attempt at facilitating the integration of energy markets.
- GoOs from all countries that participate in the European registry of GoOs can be used for European Green
- Any GoO-package sold under the European Green label has to originate from at least four distinct countries, in order to push the European transition process towards sustainable energy.

4. Communication

- When presenting European Green to consumers it is to be made sure that all certified features of the label are depicted properly. A misleading public communicative effort regarding the properties of European Green must not be made.
- However, suppliers using of European Green may announce that they surpass the minimum requirements of European Green at any time. But: any statements made regarding the renewable or green properties of a European Green labelled/certified energy product must be in accordance with all other criteria.

5. Transparency and Credibility

- As an independent institution, TÜV Rheinland supervises and certifies European Green on a yearly basis.

- In order to assess the verifiability of the product, description and estimation of the product's properties and the energy accounting practises of the product's provider are put to scrutiny by TÜV Rheinland.
- The audit entails a comprehensive documentation: The methods used to account for the amounts of electricity (capture, acquisition and sales) used in European Green and all GoOs involved are reviewed. The respective conditions and use of means are also reviewed and have to be presented clearly and unambiguously.
- Approval is granted by the certification office of TÜV Rheinland through issuance of a certificate

6. Miscellaneous

- Certification and monitoring take place in accordance with the regulations of TÜV Rheinland. The relevant certification office is obliged to handle as confidential all information made available to them about the enterprise of their clients and to only evaluate them for purposes previously agreed upon with their clients. Furthermore, this client information may under no circumstances be shared with a third party.
- The certification of the label/standard/product European Green and its criteria (ID 49103) is a collaboration of TÜV Rheinland and Bischoff & Ditze Energy GmbH & Co. KG (BDE, product vendor). The reproduction of this standard and its criteria as well as the certification of these criteria requires prior permission by BDE.