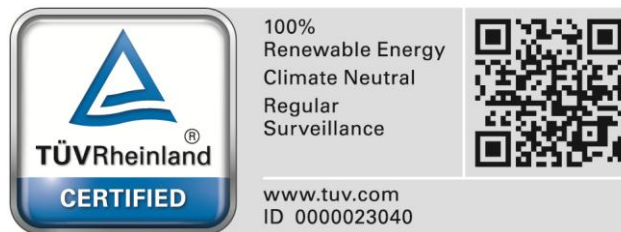


High quality green electricity  
Audited by TÜV Rheinland

**- RenewablePLUS: Catalogue of Criteria 1.1 -**



**Contents**

Background..... 2

Obligation to Prove Origin and Type of Energy Generation..... 2

1. Sustainable Electricity Production..... 2

2. Guaranteed Green Investment..... 3

3. Simultaneity on a monthly basis ..... 3

4. Climate-Neutral Production of Energy ..... 3

5. Communication ..... 4

6. Transparency and Credibility ..... 4

7. Miscellaneous..... 4

## 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.

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 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 (ID 23040) defines the criteria that determine which certificates of origin qualify for the label RenewablePLUS. 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 RenewablePLUS.

## Obligation to Prove Energy Origin and Type of Energy Generation

### 1. Sustainable Electricity Production

- The green energy feature of the label RenewablePLUS is obtained by ensuring that the Guaranties of Origin (GoOs) involved come from 100% renewable energy sources.
- Renewable energy sources are defined by the German Renewable Energy Sources Act (Erneuerbare Energien Gesetz: EEG). Each Megawatt-hour, for which a GoO is granted to the plant operator has to fulfil the criteria defined in EEG and each GoO has to be traceable to a unique 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).
- RenewablePLUS is based on GoOs which documents and ensure origin and ecologic properties of the electricity gained from renewable energy sources.

## 2. Guaranteed Green Investment

- The essential goal of the label RenewablePLUS is to make a serious contribution to the expansion and development of renewable energy beyond what the EEG requires.
- Therefore, the GoOs have to originate from power plants whose carriers foster the expansion of renewable energy sources.
- Furthermore, it has to be ensured that the power plant carriers:
  - Invest in new renewable power plants and/or
  - Invest in the expansion of existing renewable power plants and/or
  - Invest in voluntary ecologic measures within the context of renewable energy
- The amount of green investments by the carrier has at least to match their revenues from GoOs labelled as RenewablePLUS on a yearly basis.

## 3. Simultaneity on a monthly basis

- Since 2013 it is mandatory in Germany to use GoOs for electricity from renewable energy sources and to register these with the UBA. When the GoOs are used for the declaration of electricity, it is mandatory that the production of the GoO's energy takes place in that same year. Accordingly, GoO are validated and voided with the UBA on a yearly basis, thus creating simultaneity on a yearly basis as a minimum requirement. Additionally, there is the possibility to issue GoOs on a monthly basis and to note on the confirmation of voidance by the UBA where and when exactly the GoO had been issued, thus making the whole process more transparent.
- 
- In order to ensure transparency and credibility, RenewablePLUS goes beyond the requirements of EEG and provides simultaneity on a monthly basis. Hereby, RenewablePLUS ensures that the production/issuing of the GoOs and their consumption occur in the same month and for the same amount of energy. This goal can – upon request – be obtained by using customer requirement forecasts to acquire matching quantities of GoOs for each month. An energy provider offering RenewablePLUS can thus be sure that the production of renewable energy provided by GoOs, does not take place in just a few weeks of the year.
- 
- The simultaneity on a monthly basis is accounted for by either an even distribution of the energy amount – prognosed by a yearly customer requirement forecast – across the whole year or by accommodating an individual customer requirement load profile. The necessary adjustment of the exact amounts takes place on a yearly basis when the customers of Bischoff & Ditze Energy (BDE) report their actual annual supply of electricity. Alternatively, an ex-ante individual customer requirement load profile is used. If the use of electricity by the customers of the energy supplier exceeds the amount predicted by the customer requirement forecast and compensatory currents have accrued, this can be offset by the purchase of additional GoOs. Because the EEG only requires simultaneity on a yearly instead of a monthly basis, the difference between actual and projected electricity consumption does not have to be compensated on a monthly basis.

## 4. Climate-Neutral Production of Energy

- The production of energy in RenewablePLUS power plants is ensured to be 100% climate-neutral - including all elements of the entire supply chain.

- The CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions which are created by building and running power plants have to be offset through the use of Verified Emission Reductions (VERs). The VERs used from sustainable and recognised projects all over the world. The high standard of these projects is ensured by the usage of VERs with the ÖkoPLUS-label. The ÖkoPLUS-label is supervised by TÜV Rheinland. Besides carbon-offsetting ÖkoPLUS-projects are ensured to foster a sustainable social development at their respective locations.

## **5. Communication**

- When presenting RenewablePLUS 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 RenewablePLUS must not be made.
- However, suppliers using of RenewablePLUS may announce that they surpass the minimum requirements of RenewablePLUS at any time. But: any statements made regarding the renewable or green properties of a RenewablePLUS labelled energy product must be in accordance with all other criteria.

## **6. Transparency and Credibility**

- As an independent institution the TÜV Rheinland supervises the product RenewablePLUS on a yearly basis.
- In order to assess the verifiability of the product the description and estimation of the product's properties and the energy accounting practises of the product's provider are put to scrutiny by the TÜV Rheinland.
- The audit entails a comprehensive documentation: The methods used to account for the amounts of electricity (capture, acquisition and sales) used in RenewablePLUS and all certificates 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.

## **7. 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 RenewablePLUS and its criteria (ID 23040) is a collaboration of TÜV Rheinland and Bischoff & Ditze Energy (BDE, product vendors). The reproduction of this standard and its criteria as well as the certification of these criteria requires prior permission by BDE.