

Now available to all Minnesotans

Buy Green Power

It's clean. It's simple.

Green power is electricity generated from renewable, high-efficiency, or low-pollution energy sources, such as wind or solar energy.

Your purchase of green power will replace electricity that would otherwise come primarily from burning coal – one of the dirtiest fuels for producing electricity. Here in Minnesota, 75% of the energy we consume comes from coal – less than 1% currently comes from wind. Your purchase of green power can help change that, since most of Minnesota's electrical utility green power programs directly support new wind power, much of which is generated right here in our state.



Wind turbines operate in harmony with farming and ranching. This a wind farm in southwestern Minnesota, where the wind energy potential is among the nation's best.



Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance

Buying green power helps our health, environment, and economy.

Sign up today!



Helps prevent acid rain by reducing sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions.



Reduces mercury emissions from power plants, which significantly contribute to fish consumption warnings.



Helps keep our air clean by reducing small particulates and several other unhealthy emissions.



Significantly reduces carbon dioxide, the primary contributor to global warming.



Improves Minnesota's economy, especially in rural parts of the state where farmers can lease their land for wind development.



Creates additional demand for clean, renewable energy above and beyond any legislative requirements that utilities must meet.

More than 80% of Minnesotans think electric companies should emphasize renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, over fossil fuels when generating additional electricity.

How does it work?

Buy small amounts of green power for as little as \$1.50 a month more, or buy as much as 100% of your electricity usage. For the average home, a month of 100% green power would cost about \$6 to \$14 more than traditional energy sources. Every dollar spent by green power customers goes directly toward the purchase of new green power. In the first two years of these programs, green power purchases by Minnesotans resulted in over 30 new wind turbines.

Green power does not go directly to your house, because utilities cannot direct specific electricity to a specific place. However, when you purchase green power, the total amount of green electricity that travels over the entire system is increased.

The Minnesota Department of Commerce certifies that green power programs meet the requirements of state law and verifies the utility's reporting of green power sales.

FACT:

Buying \$2 worth of green power each month for a year has the same environmental benefit as driving 2,400 fewer miles in your car!

How do I sign up?

It's simple! Contact your electricity provider (information should be on your electric bill) and ask to sign up for their *green power program*. The amount you choose to purchase will be added to your future bills.



Save energy, save money

Try some of these tips to conserve energy at home, and you may not even notice the cost of buying green power:



Turn off lights, computers, and appliances when not in use.



Turn your thermostat down in the winter and set your air conditioner higher in the summer.



Buy energy-efficient bulbs and appliances. Look for the Energy Star logo.



Get a home energy audit. Seal cracks and insulate.

One large wind turbine can produce enough electricity to power up to 600 homes.



=



x 600

Tell your friends and neighbors!

We need your help to spread the word about the benefits of green power. Let your friends and neighbors know how simple it is to help clean our air!



Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance

For more information:
www.moea.state.mn.us/energy/