

Green Electricity for Your Home

Goal: Get 100 homes to switch to clean power

Make your monthly electric bill work for the environment. Buy electricity from clean, renewable energy sources and help build a sustainable future. It's safe, reliable and easy.

Why Switch?

Whenever you flip an electric switch, you have a negative impact on the environment. Electricity is the single greatest industrial source of air pollution in the United States contributing to smog, acid rain, and the production of global warming gases that adversely affects the health of humans and fragile ecosystems. Switching from a company that sells dirty power to one that sells clean renewable green power will reduce pollution.

What is Dirty Power?

Dirty Power is what you probably now pay for in your electricity bill:

Coal burning - a 19th century technology that provides **20%** of your current electricity needs, producing smog, toxic metals like mercury, and tiny particle pollution.

Nuclear power plants - create the risk of catastrophic failures and the problem of radioactive waste and provide **16%** of your electricity requirements.

Old natural gas plants - provide your home with **31%** of its electricity and are inefficient fossil fuel-fired facilities that emit excessive carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that cause global warming.

Large scale hydroelectric plants - degrade water quality and devastate river ecosystems and account for **20%** of your electric needs.

What is Green Power?

Green power produces energy with minimal impacts on the environment:

Wind - can be converted into electricity. This is the cheapest and fastest growing renewable energy technology.

Solar - energy produces electricity by collecting the radiant energy of the sun.

Small scale hydroelectric plants - (under 30 MW) are defined as green power because they use flowing water to produce clean electricity without the huge impact of larger dams.

Geothermal - energy utilizes steam from geysers, molten rock and steam spouts.

Biomass - uses energy that is stored in green plants and organic matter to create electricity.

Why should I switch?

When you choose to switch to an energy provider that offers 100% renewable green power, you are actually helping to create demand for brand new power plants that use clean and green renewable energy sources. That's important because the best way to reduce the need for dirty power plants is to build new cleaner renewable ones in their place.

The Environmental Defense Fund estimates that over a five year period the average household in California would reduce their Carbon Dioxide emissions by 24,276 pounds just by switching to green renewable energy. Green Sangha's goal is to get 100 people to switch to green power. That would mean an astounding reduction in Carbon Dioxide emissions of 2,427,600 pounds over a five year period! Please join us now!

Is it easy to switch?

Yes, very easy. Just have your meter number handy and call one of the companies listed here. There is no switching fee, no deposit, no meter installation required, and absolutely no change in service reliability.

Will I experience a disruption of power if I switch?

No. Here's why: your current electric utility is still responsible for your power poles and lines, and taking care of any problems that happen, like power outages or downed lines. When you choose renewable green power, you're only changing the source of the electricity you buy. Your regular utility still delivers the power to your home.

Who else has switched to Green Power?

Patagonia, Toyota, Fetzer Winery, Birkenstock, Kaiser, 18 Episcopal Churches, the City of Santa Monica, and hundreds of thousands of Californians just like you.

Which company should I switch to?

Any energy provider you choose will provide the same quality service you now receive. Look for companies that are Green-e certified to be sure you are buying a quality, environmentally friendly product. Green-e is an environmental certification program of the non-profit Center for Resource Solutions. The more power that comes from new renewables the better, because then we are replacing dirty power producers with new and clean green power sources. Below is a partial list of green energy companies and information resources on green power sources:

Green-e Renewable Electricity Certification Program (green-e.org) 1-888-63-GREEN - Green-e is a voluntary certification program for renewable electricity products. The program sets consumer protection and environmental standards for electricity products, and verifies that Green-e certified products meet these standards. National directory of green energy producers online.

Green Mountain (greenmountain.com) 1-888-246-6730 - Green energy company that offers the following options:

- * Solar for the Future - 5% new renewables, 95% existing renewables; same as current bill plus \$6.95 monthly service charge.
- * Wind for the Future - 25% new renewables to be built, 75% existing renewables; same as current bill plus \$13.84 monthly service charge.

For more information on renewable electric service providers in California please visit: www.cleanpower.org and powerscorecard.org.

California's Emerging Renewables Rebate Program allows residences, institutions, businesses, and industry to receive rebates for installing qualifying renewable energy systems. For more info, visit www.consumerenergycenter.org/erprebate/program.html or call 800-555-7794.

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