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NORTH CAROLINA GREENPOWER

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North Carolinians can help the environment with NC GreenPower

In October 2003, North Carolina saw the launching of the first ever statewide program to encourage the development of renewable energy sources for the state's power supply – NC GreenPower. Today, business and residential energy consumers alike are supporting this program that also provides economic and environmental benefits for our state.

About renewable energy

Renewable energy, also known as green power, is generated from sources that are available naturally and replenish themselves. Green power comes from renewable sources that produce little or no pollution and have far less impact on the environment than energy from fossil fuels such as coal or oil. More and more electric utilities nationwide are offering green power to customers because it is a cleaner energy option.

About the NC GreenPower program

NC GreenPower offers cleaner energy options for energy consumers in North Carolina. Working with independent renewable energy producers and the state's electric utilities, the program offers electricity generated from renewable sources such as the sun, wind and organic matter, all of which are indigenous to North

Carolina. The program is “homegrown,” meaning that energy is produced in North Carolina for the state’s power supply.

Unlike other programs nationwide, NC GreenPower is the first program of its kind to include voluntary participation from electric utilities statewide. The program is governed by a 22-member Board of Directors, with representation from environmental, electric utility, government and consumer interests. Currently, the program has agreements with 18 suppliers throughout the state and is seeking additional generation.

The program is made possible by financial contributions to help offset the production cost of this type of energy. A typical contribution of just \$4 per month adds one block of 100 kilowatt-hours of renewable energy to North Carolina’s power supply. Large-volume users – usually from the corporate sector – may contribute towards 100 or more blocks at a rate of \$2.50 per block with a different energy mix. All contributions are voluntary and tax-deductible.

“This program is for everyone,” said Maggy Inman, vice president of NC GreenPower. “It is an easy and affordable way for both individuals and organizations to make a positive impact on our environment and to promote the development of cleaner sources of electricity for our state.”

Electricity generated from renewable resources will not only help to diversify the state’s electric supply, but will also provide important environmental benefits. Each 100 kWh block, subscribed monthly, will annually offset approximately 2,500 lbs of carbon dioxide (CO₂). This reduction is environmentally equivalent to planting more than 190 trees or not driving 3,000 miles in an automobile.

To date, the program has nearly 8,000 participants. Among these participants are corporate leaders, including Advanced Energy, Dominion North Carolina Power, Duke Power, Eisai,

GlaxoSmithKline, IBM, Lowe's Home Improvement, N.C. Electric Membership Corporation, N.C. Farm Bureau, N.C. Pork Council, Progress Energy, Public Power, Research Triangle Institute, Smithfield Foods, State Energy Office and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Contact

For more information about NC GreenPower and how to participate, call 866-533-NCGP or visit www.ncgreenpower.org. NC GreenPower also offers free educational presentations to groups about renewable energy through its statewide Speakers Bureau. For more information, email the Bureau at speaker@ncgreenpower.org.

NC GreenPower, an independent nonprofit organization, was approved by the N.C. Utilities Commission to provide North Carolinians with cleaner options for their energy sources. NC GreenPower is committed to environmental protection by increasing renewable energy sources in North Carolina. It is a subsidiary of Advanced Energy, a Raleigh-based nonprofit corporation that helps utility, industrial and residential customers improve the return on their energy investment.

For additional information on GreenPower renewable energy, solar, etc., the Western North Carolina Green Building Council or to volunteer or join the WNCGBC call 828-232-5080 or e-mail at infowncgbc.org or www.wncgbc.org