



## What is Green Power?

Green power is energy generated from non-polluting, environmentally beneficial and renewable sources. Examples are **solar power, wind power, small scale hydro-electricity, and energy generated from agricultural sources or landfill gas**. There is a growing movement in the U.S. and worldwide to increase the supply of dependable and affordable renewable energy to supplement and eventually replace the current practice of creating electricity by burning coal which contributes to water and air pollution and to the excessive amounts of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere.

### Why is it Smart to Buy Green Power?

On average, every kilowatt-hour (kWh) of renewable power avoids the emission of more than one pound of carbon dioxide, a global warming pollutant. Green power technologies generally require much less water to operate than nuclear and coal power plants, and as more consumers buy green power, the cost is likely to improve. Paying for someone else to put the green energy on the grid is faster, easier and usually cheaper than buying your own system (such as solar panels for your home), and it is this extra you pay that makes the green energy production on a large scale more economically feasible.

### How Can I Buy Green Power?

You can purchase green power from your local utility if it sells a green power product. We recommend buying products with a Green-e logo indicating the program is accredited by the nationally acclaimed Green-e program of the Center for Resource Solutions ([www.green-e.org](http://www.green-e.org)).

If your utility does not sell a high-quality green power product, you can buy green "tags" or "Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs)" from Green-e certified companies that generate and sell Green Power (see [www.green-e.org](http://www.green-e.org) for more information). These certificates are created when a renewable energy facility generates electricity that displaces non-renewable energy from the regional or national electricity grid.

To select the best green power supplier that suits your values or needs, consider such criteria as the supplier's reputation, price, and their product choice (i.e., whether they generate higher quality fuel types such as solar and wind energy).



## How Can I Support Green Power?

### Conserve Energy!

The cheapest, cleanest, and greenest kilowatt-hour is the one that is never produced. Conserve energy by turning off lights and appliances that aren't needed. Insulate your home, congregation, and office to reduce heating and air-conditioning loads. Become more efficient by using Energy Star appliances and equipment and compact fluorescent light bulbs.

**Work with your local utility** to start and support energy conservation programs and promote energy efficiency in your community. Encourage your utility company to provide energy from renewable sources such as solar power, wind power, small scale hydro-electricity, and energy generated from agricultural sources and landfill gas. If your utility already offers green power, commit to purchasing at least one block of power from their green power program.

### Create Your Own Green Power!

The most environmentally clean way to generate green power is at your home, work or faith community so that energy losses from transmission are avoided. The two most widely used and available methods are solar and wind. You can even use solar power to heat your hot water. Georgia Interfaith Power & Light has a loan program to help faith communities finance and produce solar power—ask us about it!

**Encourage your faith community and its members to become Green Power purchasers.** After you have done all you can to conserve energy and to become more energy efficient, invest in clean, green power. Refer to "Guide to Purchasing Green Power" at [www.epa.gov/greenpower/buygreenpower/guide.htm](http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/buygreenpower/guide.htm).

**To learn more about green power, energy efficiency, and conservation and to find out how you and your faith community can commit to responsible environmental stewardship, contact Georgia Interfaith Power & Light at 404-588-9978 or [info@gipl.org](mailto:info@gipl.org) or visit us on the web at [www.gipl.org](http://www.gipl.org).**