

GreenPower - Frequently Asked Questions

What is GreenPower?

GreenPower is accredited renewable energy (also referred to as green energy) that is generated from sources such as wind, sun, hydro and biomass which produce no net greenhouse gas emissions.

Who provides GreenPower?

Energy supply companies purchase GreenPower from renewable energy generators and provide this to their customers.

How is GreenPower supplied?

If a person purchases accredited renewable energy it does not mean the electricity will go directly from a renewable source to their property. Instead the equivalent amount of renewable energy is added to the electricity grid on a person's behalf every year.

What is the cost of GreenPower?

GreenPower usually costs up to about 5 cents* extra per one kilowatt hour. Actew AGL estimates the cost of 100% GreenPower to be \$1.30 per day, in addition to the regular electricity costs, for an average household* using 20kWh per day (www.actewagl.com.au). The additional money spent on GreenPower goes directly to purchasing GreenPower from renewable energy generators.

(*Cost may vary depending on the amount of energy you use at home and the amount charged per kWh by your energy provider.)

Who accredits the energy providers for this green energy?

All accredited products should carry the GreenPower tick! Each year the Government commissions independent audits of Accredited GreenPower providers to ensure compliance with the National GreenPower Accreditation Program. Green Electricity Watch (a coalition of 3 environmental organisations) also conducts an independent survey to provide a ranking of accredited GreenPower products. This ensures that the amount of green energy you purchase is exactly matched by a renewable energy purchase by your energy supplier. This amount is in addition to what the company is required to purchase under the Mandatory Renewable Energy Target legislation (www.climatechange.gov.au/renewabletarget/index.html).

Is there enough GreenPower to supply me?

Yes, although there may be some delay from the time of purchase to supply to the grid. Clearly if everyone switched to green energy overnight it would be necessary for the industry to embark on a massive program of investment in renewable energy infrastructure! If you are concerned about the delay you could look into other options such as generating your own renewable energy by installing solar panels on the roof of your home.

How do I switch to GreenPower?

Most energy companies in Australia provide GreenPower accredited renewable energy. It just takes a phone call:

- Find contact details of your energy supplier and your account from your most recent electricity bill
- Ring your supplier to switch to GreenPower
- Choose one of the options given to you over the phone

Information on the following websites has been used to prepare this FAQ.

Visit these websites to find out more information about green energy, accredited products and suppliers:

www.greenpower.nsw.gov.au

www.greenelectricitywatch.org.au



Photos from top

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