

Frequently Asked Questions



What is green power?

It is electricity generated by renewable resources like solar, wind, and methane gas from decomposing garbage. These resources are replenished naturally and minimize harm to the environment.

Why is the City of Georgetown offering the Green Power Program?

The City of Georgetown and Santee Cooper are working together on the Green Power Program in response to increased customer interest in renewable energy and concern for the environment. By taking this initial step to meet and encourage the growing demand for renewable energy, we can help reduce reliance solely on limited generation resources while improving and preserving the environment for future generations.

Where does the electricity for the Green Power Program come from?

The renewable energy source is methane gas produced at the Horry County Solid Waste Authority Landfill. The methane gas from the decomposing garbage powers three 1,400 horsepower engines that turn generators which produce 3.3 megawatts of electricity. Because of the strong demand, more landfills are being constructed across the state.

How does the Green Power Program help better the environment?

Renewable resources replace themselves naturally so they produce little or no air pollutants or waste. In using the methane emitted by decomposing garbage as fuel for generating power, we can significantly reduce the amount of greenhouse gas that otherwise would go into the atmosphere. Landfill gas is the only renewable energy source that, when used, actually removes pollution from the atmosphere.

At full capacity, the 3.3 megawatt plant has the same positive environmental impact as planting more than 21,000 acres of trees, enough to cover an area of almost 33 square miles.

How does renewable energy differ from other energy sources?

Today, most electricity comes from limited generation resources. Renewable resources, such as the sun, wind, and decomposing garbage, provide a regenerating fuel source for electricity. Using renewable resources to produce electricity will help reduce the need to use conventional generators powered by limited generation resources.

Why does renewable energy cost more?

Facilities that use renewable resources to generate electricity are currently expensive to build and operate. Increased customer demand by people like you for renewable energy will lead to further development of renewable technologies.

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If I purchase Green Power will I notice a difference in my electric service?

No. You will not notice any difference in your electric service when you sign up for the Green Power Program. The renewable energy purchased by participants will be pooled with energy from conventional sources and will be delivered through the same power lines.

In fact, you can't really separate electrons on the electric lines to know which electricity you are getting to your home or business. What you can be assured of is that less energy from conventional sources is being produced.

Where will my money go?

All revenues from the Green Power Program premiums will be reinvested in future development of additional renewable resources or facilities.

How much will my participation in the Green Power Program cost?

Your cost will vary depending on how many blocks you chose to buy. Each block purchased will add an extra \$3 to your monthly electric bill. For residential customers, rates are :

\$3 per month for 1 block (100 kWh)
\$6 per month for 2 blocks (200 kWh)
\$9 per month for 3 blocks (300 kWh)

You can also choose to purchase any number of blocks for \$3 each.

Your participation will show on your electric bill within one or two months.

Participation in Green Power is voluntary by City of Georgetown customers. A customer may discontinue participation in Green Power at any time.

How do I enroll?

Enrolling is easy. Just call or visit our customer service office at city hall.

For more information

Contact City of Georgetown at 843-545-4044 or visit us online at www.cogsc.com.