

Florence Energy News

What is Green Power Switch?

Green Power Switch is a simple way for you to increase regional renewable energy today for a cleaner environment tomorrow. For as little as \$4 a month you can do your part to support renewable electricity such as wind, solar, and bio-energy.

Renewable energy still costs more than traditional energy; Green Power Switch purchases help cover the difference in the cost. Each \$4 block of Green Power Switch ensures 150 kilowatt-hours of electricity is generated in the Tennessee Valley region by a renewable resource. This is in addition to the renewable and clean energy already included in the standard energy supply. 150 kilowatt-hours is slightly more energy than the average monthly output of a typical solar panel (averaged over the course of a year). Neither TVA nor the local power companies in the region "profit" from Green Power Switch.

How much does Green Power Switch cost?

Green Power Switch is sold to residential consumers in 150 kilowatt-hour blocks. This amount represents about 12 percent of a typical household's average monthly energy use. Each block adds \$4 to the customer's monthly power bills. Customers may buy as many blocks as they like. Green Power Switch is also marketed to commercial and industrial consumers, who are asked to buy blocks based on the amount of energy they use.

With my purchase, do I get Green Power Switch at my house or meter?

No. The electrons do not flow directly from the renewable energy generator to your residence or business. Instead, the purchase of Green Power Switch ensures that electricity from renewable resources is generated and added to the power grid. Renewable energy generators are connected to the electric grid just as conventional electricity generators are. Once electricity from renewable sources enters the grid, it mixes with electricity from conventional resources. Because electrons from different kinds of resources look the same, it is impossible to know if the electricity you are using comes from "green" electricity sources or other electricity sources.

How do I sign up for Green Power Switch?

Sign up online on TVA's website and choose [Residential Sign-Up](#) or [Commercial Sign-Up](#). Or, you can contact your local power distributor, email greenpowerswitch@tva.com or call 866-673-4340.

How will I be billed?

Green Power Switch charges will appear on your regular utility bill as an additional line item.

Need Help with Utilities?

For many of our customers, the upcoming winter months will produce the highest utility bills of the year. These bills can sometimes be difficult to pay, especially if they are unexpectedly expensive.

If you or someone you know need assistance paying your utility bill, provided below is a list of organizations that may be able to help.

- Community Action 256-766-4330
Cherry Hill Homes Office, Florence
(by appointment ONLY)
- Help Center 256-766-7663
621 S. Court St., Florence
- Salvation Army 256-764-4432
1601 Huntsville Rd., Florence
- St. Vincent De Paul 256-718-0921
659 S. Poplar St., Florence
(Fridays after 9:30 a.m.)

HOW TO READ YOUR ELECTRIC METER

Reading your electric meter is a good way to know how much you're spending on electricity. Here in the Tennessee Valley, our residential rates are among the lowest in the country. Together with your local power company, we'll continue to keep those rates low, while offering more competitive and more energy efficient ways to use that electricity.

Electricity is measured in kilowatt-hours. As sort of a quick reference, a 100 watt light bulb burning for 10 hours uses one kilowatt-hour. Electric meters keep track of how many kilowatt-hours you've used. There are two kinds of electric meters, digital and dial. Both are pretty easy to read and understand once you get the hang of it.

Digital Meter

On a digital meter, all you have to do is read the meter like the mileage odometer in your car. Every time the number increases, that's another kilowatt-hour used. Simple.

Dial Meter

On a dial meter, there are five dials, numbered 0 through 9, with the 0 at the top. Look closely, and you'll see that the numbers go around the face clockwise on some of the dials, but counterclockwise on every other dial.

The hands of the dials move in the same direction as the counting order of the numbers. To read the meter, just write down the number that each hand has just passed. Start with the dial on the far left, and proceed to the right.



Here, the reading is 66,649.

If a hand is directly on a number, look at the dial to its immediate right. If that hand has passed zero, write down the number that the left hand is pointing to.

So, now what?

Once you know how to read your meter, it's easy to figure out how much electricity you've used since your last electric bill. Simply look at last month's electric bill to find the reading recorded by your local power company. Then, subtract last month's reading from the number you just took off of your meter. What you end up with is the total number of kilowatt-hours you've used since your last reading.

Where does it go?

The biggest electricity consumption in your home is from your heating and air conditioning equipment. The average home uses about 55 percent of its electricity here. Older, less insulated homes use even more electricity. Older appliances are less energy efficient and cost more to run too. Water heaters are usually the second-largest user of electricity in your home. Major appliances like refrigerators, stoves, washers, and dryers also use a lot of electricity, followed by smaller items like TVs, lamps, and stereos.

HOLIDAY CLOSING

JANUARY 16

MARTIN L. KING, JR. DAY

Florence ENERGY

NEWS YOU CAN USE FROM FLORENCE UTILITIES

Green Power Switch®

TVA and participating local public power companies, working with input from the environmental community, have created a program called Green Power Switch to produce electricity from renewable sources and add it to TVA's power mix. See inside to learn more.

If you or someone you know need assistance paying your utility bill, please see inside for a list of organizations that may be able to help.

Reading your electric meter is a good way to know how much you're spending on electricity. Here in the Tennessee Valley, our residential rates are among the lowest in the country. Together with your local power company, we'll continue to keep those rates low, while offering more competitive and more energy efficient ways to use that electricity.

www.florenceutilities.com