

# Florence Energy News

## Green Power Switch®

*TVA and participating local public power companies, including Florence Utilities, have worked with input from the environmental community to create a program called Green Power Switch® to produce electricity from renewable sources and add it to the Tennessee Valley's power mix.*

## What is Green Power Switch®?

Like any revolutionary idea, the idea behind Green Power Switch® is simple: harness the natural power of the wind, the sun, and the earth to create an energy source that is usable in our everyday lives. TVA and local public power companies, working in cooperation with the environmental community, developed Green Power Switch® as a way to bring green power — electricity that is generated by renewable resources such as solar, wind, and methane gas — to Tennessee Valley consumers.

## How much does Green Power Switch® cost?

Green Power Switch® is sold to residential consumers in 150-kilowatt-hour blocks (about 12% of a typical household's monthly energy use). Each block adds \$4 to the customer's monthly power bills. Consumers may buy as many blocks as they like. In other parts of the country, residential consumers who participate in green power programs pay an extra \$2 to \$10 per month for green power. 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.

## How does green power benefit the environment?

The environmental effects of traditional energy sources like coal, natural gas, oil, and nuclear power can be significant. Although no source of energy is impact-free, renewable resources create less waste and pollution. In fact, an investment of an additional \$8 per month on your power bill buys enough Green Power Switch® to equal the environmental benefits of planting an acre of trees in the Tennessee Valley.

## Why does green power cost more?

Although renewable sources like sunlight and wind are free, the technology used to capture the energy they produce is still more expensive than traditional power generation methods. However, increased demand may lead to expanded power production capacity and eventually to lower costs.

## How much electricity does Green Power Switch® produce?

TVA has the capacity to provide as much as 97 million kilowatt-hours of green power annually. Physical laws determine where electricity is ultimately used, so power from these sources will go into TVA's electric system as part of the Valley's total power mix, rather than to individual homes or businesses. When the green power resources are not operating — for instance, when wind speeds are too low to generate energy — TVA's other resources will continue to supply reliable electricity.

## How do I sign up for Green Power Switch®?

Contact our *Customer Service Department* at **760-6512** or **sign up online** at this web site:  
[http://www.tva.gov/greenpower/switch/green\\_formres.htm](http://www.tva.gov/greenpower/switch/green_formres.htm)

## LOWER YOUR SUMMER

### ENERGY BILL

1. Turn up your cooling system's thermostat to **75° - 78°F**. Do not pay to keep your furniture cool – raise it even more when no one is home.
2. Perform a do-it-yourself energy audit. You can request a print version or perform your audit on-line at [www.energyright.com](http://www.energyright.com).
3. Lower your water heater temperature to **120°F** and reduce hot water use by taking shorter showers and using cold water for laundry whenever possible.
4. Turn off lights, televisions, and other appliances when not in use. Use the “sleep mode” on computers.
5. Remove and recycle your second refrigerator.
6. Keep curtains closed on the south, east, and west sides of the house during the day to help keep cool.
7. Clean the refrigerator coils and set the temperature to **36° - 39°F** and the freezer to **0° - 5°F**.
8. Use the microwave. It cooks faster and does not create as much heat as a stove burner.
9. Air-dry dishes instead of using the dishwasher's heat-drying option.
10. Run your dishwasher and clothes washer only when full.

## TOP 10 LOW COST

### ENERGY SAVING STEPS

1. Caulk and weather strip around windows and doors to stop air leaks. Seal any gaps in floors and in walls around pipes and electrical wiring.
2. Change filters monthly – dirty filters make your air conditioning unit work harder.
3. Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents; they use **75%** less energy and last 10 times longer.
4. Install aerating, low-flow faucets and showerheads, and repair leaky faucets.
5. Tune up your heating and cooling system. Seasonal tune-ups will keep your system running as efficiently as possible. Have your ducts inspected. Repair air leaks and seal and insulate cooling system ductwork.
6. Insulate! Add insulation to your attic, crawl space, and any accessible exterior walls. Add pipe insulation to the first five feet of water pipe coming from your heater. Install light switch and electrical outlet seals on exterior walls. Wrap your water heater with insulation or install an insulating blanket.
7. Look for the ENERGY STAR® label when replacing large or small appliances.
8. Use power strips for home electronics, and turn off power strips when equipment is not in use. TVs and DVD players, etc., still use power when the switch is off!
9. Replace worn-out seals on your refrigerator and freezer.
10. Plant a tree! Shade trees placed on the south or southeast side of your home will keep it cooler.

*More energy conservation tips can be found at [www.energyright.com](http://www.energyright.com).*

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# Florence ENERGY

NEWS YOU CAN USE FROM FLORENCE UTILITIES

This issue contains information about **Green Power Switch®**. Like any revolutionary idea, the idea behind **Green Power Switch®** is simple: harness the natural power of the wind, the sun, and the earth to create an energy source that is usable in our everyday lives.

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and Florence Utilities, working in cooperation with the environmental community, developed **Green Power Switch®** as a way to bring *green power* (electricity that is generated by renewable resources such as solar, wind, and methane gas) to our customers.

Energy conservation tips are included in this issue to help you save money on your utility bill during the summer months. Please look over the tips listed inside and start conserving energy today.

[www.florenceutilities.com](http://www.florenceutilities.com)