



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

## SMART ENERGY SOLUTIONS

# Buying Green Energy in Illinois

You may think that global warming is an overwhelming issue and that, as an individual, there's nothing you can do *but it is the individual that contributes to change.*

Since carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is not regulated in the US and energy needs are continuing to increase, better energy solutions are needed. A study recently published outlines a plan that can reduce global warming by up to 80% by 2050! This is possible because of the development of Green Energy technologies.

*You can be a part of that solution by purchasing Green Energy!*

Green Energy is produced from renewable sources, such as solar, wind, biomass, hydrological and geothermal. Depending on your energy utility, getting involved may be just as easy as making a phone call! Green Energy can be purchased one of two ways, **Green Pricing** or by purchasing **Renewable Energy Certificates (REC's)**.

### Green Pricing

“Green Pricing” is a voluntary program where you agree to pay a set premium per kilowatt hour (kWh) for energy that is produced from Green Energy sources. You have the option of how much Green Energy you want to purchase. To pursue this option call your electric utility and ask to participate in their program.

Here are some of the utilities that offer a Green Pricing program in Illinois:

- City of Naperville - Community Energy
- Dairyland Power Cooperative/Jo-Carroll Energy

Not all utilities offer this as an option, but “Renewable Energy Certificates” are.

### Renewable Energy Certificates (REC's)

Conceptually this is the same as Green Pricing and is just as important. REC's however are bought through a Certificate Marketer.



Illinois farmers are growing corn and clean renewable wind energy.

Certificate Marketers are organizations or companies that develop or produce renewable sources of energy and then sell certificates to people who don't have the ability with their utilities. This is a great option for those people who can't buy green energy from their energy utility!

Here are some utilities that offer REC purchasing on your energy utility bill:

- City of St. Charles/ComEd and Community Energy, Inc.
- Prairie Power and Community Energy, Inc. Including: Adams Electric Co-op, Coles-Moultrie Electric, Eastern Illini Electric, McDonough Power, Menard, Rural Electric Convenience Co-op, Shelby Electric, Spoon River Electric Co-op.

*Where can I buy Renewable Energy Certificates if my utility doesn't offer a REC purchasing option?*

Two web sites that will give you all of your REC options in Illinois.

- The Green Power Network.  
[www.eere.energy.gov/greenpower/index.shtml](http://www.eere.energy.gov/greenpower/index.shtml)
- Green E-Program.  
[www.green-e.org](http://www.green-e.org)

*How do you know that your money is actually being used for Green Energy projects?*

Before purchasing any REC you should check the creditability of the provider by either one of two web sites. Each web site makes it extremely simple to do!

The Department of Energy offers a state by state breakdown of REC's and Green Pricing providers. Check out The Green Power Network [www.eere.energy.gov/greenpower/index.shtml](http://www.eere.energy.gov/greenpower/index.shtml)

The Green e-program offers verified creditability of REC's providers. Green E-Program-  
[www.green-e.org](http://www.green-e.org)

## You can take action by:

1. Calling your utility and joining the Green Pricing program and if they don't offer it than demand it!
2. Sign up for REC's to make your energy as green as possible.
3. Visit [illinois.sierraclub.org](http://illinois.sierraclub.org) for our Evolution - Forward Energy information and more SMART ENERGY SOLUTIONS



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