

PURCHASING GREEN ENERGY

Regional Resources:

- **Bonneville Environmental Foundation**
Market green power products to help fund renewable projects
133 SW 2nd Ave. #410, Portland 97204 • 503-248-190
www.b-e-f.org
- **Energy Trust of Oregon**
Public purpose funds to support renewable energy projects
526 SE Morrison, Suite 300B, Portland 97214 • 503-493-8888 •
www.energytrust.org
- **Bonneville Power Administration**
Purchasing of renewable power, conservation and renewables discount program
P.O. Box 3621, Portland 97208 • 1-800-282-3713 / 503-230-3000
www.bpa.gov
- **Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance**
The site includes Local Government Energy Program information and contacts for state-specific programs. <http://www.nwalliance.org/projects/projectdetail.asp?PID=53>.
- **Renewable Northwest Project**
This site includes information about Green Power purchasing in the Northwest and current projects in the region. RNP works with local organizations and energy companies to get workable renewable projects in the ground.
<http://www.rnp.org/Resources/default.html>
- **Climate Solutions**
Harvesting Clean Energy program engages a broad array of agricultural, rural development, and clean energy partners in the Northwest to accelerate renewable energy development in rural communities.
<http://www.climatesolutions.org/>
- **EnergyIdeas Clearinghouse Hotline**
800-872-3568. *EnergyIdeas offers technical information and program referrals on energy efficiency for Northwest businesses and municipalities. The website:* www.EnergyIdeas.org also includes resources for homeowners.

Utilities – OR & WA

May participate in various activities including invest in renewable resources, purchase green power, Business Energy Tax Credit pass-through. Investor owned utilities are listed. Check with your local publicly owned utility also.

- Portland General Electric • 1-800-722-9287 • www.PortlandGeneral.com
- Puget Sound Energy – www.pse.com – Renewables Market Manager: heather.mulligan@pse.com
- Pacific Power • 1-800-222-4335 • www.pacificpower.net
- Idaho Power • www.idahopower.com
- NW Natural • 1-800-WARM-123 • www.nwnatural.com
- Avista • www.avistacorp.com
- Cascade Natural Gas • www.cascadegas.com

Washington State Energy Programs & Services:

- **Washington State Energy Extension Program** – General Energy Information – <http://www.energy.wsu.edu/projects/renewables/>
- **Rebuild America – WA State**
Rebuild America is a network of community-driven voluntary partnerships that foster energy efficiency and renewable energy in commercial, government and public-housing buildings. At the federal level, it is the largest, most established technology deployment program within DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE)
<http://www.rebuild.gov/partnerships/PartnershipByStateDisplay.asp?state=WA> :
Ms. Karen Messmer
Energy Specialist
925 Plum St. SE Building 4
PO Box 43165
Olympia, WA 98504-3165
Phone: 360-956-2090
Fax: 360-236-2090
Email: messmerk@energy.wsu.edu
- **WSU Energy Library** – Ms. Angela Santamaria 360 956-2076 – *Library conducts research for officials on anything related to energy efficiency, renewable efficiency, code standards laws and which state programs are available to municipalities.*

General Resources:

- **Office of the Federal Environmental Executive**
<http://www.ofee.gov/gp/gp.htm>
- **Environmental Protection Agency**
<http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/buygreenpower/guide.htm>
- **US Department of Energy**
Information, research grants • www.eren.doe.gov/sro/

GLOSSARY:

Green Tags (from www.b-e-f.org)

Green Tags are created when wind power or other renewable energy is substituted for traditional power. The result is a shift away from our dependence on burning fossil fuel to produce electricity. Using clean renewable energy is friendly to the environment and reduces emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. Green Tags represent the real savings in carbon dioxide and other pollutants that occur when green power replaces burning fossil fuel.

Renewable energy is still a little more expensive than buying traditional power so Green Tags are purchased in addition to the electricity that you are now using. Buying Green Tags has the same effect as buying green power. Both replace fossil fuel generators with clean renewables, and both have exactly the same environmental benefits.

Green tags vs. Delivered Products

www.epa.gov/greeningepa/content/energy/pdf/greentags.pdf

From the EPA: <http://www.epa.gov/cleanrgy/glossary.htm>

Green Power

Electricity that is generated from renewable energy sources is often referred to as “green power.” Green power products can include electricity generated exclusively from renewable resources or, more frequently, electricity produced from a combination of fossil and renewable resources. Also known as “blended” products, these products typically have lower prices than 100 percent renewable products. Customers who take advantage of these options usually pay a premium for having some or all of their electricity produced from renewable resources. To find out more about green power, visit EPA’s [Green Power Partnership Web site](#).

Green Power Marketers

Due to increased customer awareness of the environmental implications associated with power generation, a growing number of utilities and other types of energy service providers have begun offering green power products. The term “green power marketers” usually refers to energy providers operating in states that permit retail competition in the electricity markets. In states that do not allow this retail competition, many utilities have begun offering green power options under what are typically referred to as green pricing programs. To find out what power marketers offer green power products in your area and if your utility offers a green pricing program, visit the [Green Power Locator](#).

Green Power Purchasing

Green power can be purchased nationwide from several sources. Green power marketers offer green power products to consumers in deregulated markets—such as New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New England. In states that do not allow retail competition in the electricity markets, many utilities offer renewable energy products through green pricing programs. In addition, all customers nationwide have the opportunity to buy renewable energy and stimulate the development of renewable generation sources through renewable energy certificates. Finally, customers can choose to install on-site renewable generation, such as solar panels. To find out more about green power purchasing, visit EPA’s [Green Power Partnership Web site](#).

Green Pricing

Green pricing refers to an optional utility service that allows customers of traditional utilities support a greater level of utility investment in renewable energy by paying a premium on their electric bill to cover any above-market costs of acquiring renewable energy resources. To find out if your utility offers a green pricing program, refer to the [Green Power Locator](#).

From www.rggi.org (Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative)

What is a Cap-and-Trade Program?

A Cap-and-Trade Program would cap the total amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to meet a specific environmental target. GHG emissions would be allocated to individual companies. The total number of emission permits (also known as allowances) allocated adds up to the total emissions cap for the region.

A Cap-And-Trade Permit System controls the right to emit by setting a cap, but allows companies to trade permits. This provides flexibility to companies with differing abilities to reduce emissions in a cost-effective manner. For example, if Company A has a variety of low-cost emissions reduction opportunities, it may have surplus permits available to sell. Company B, however, may not have enough permits to account for its expected emissions. Company B may choose to purchase surplus permits on the market to cover excess emissions instead of paying fines. At the end of the year, permits are submitted to the government. The requirement to reduce GHG emissions creates a demand for permits.

What is Emissions Trading?

Emissions trading is part of a Cap-and-Trade Program. This trading allows companies to meet emissions reduction targets at a lower cost than more rigid site-specific, command and control approaches. It is an economic concept that emphasizes leveraging market forces to minimize the cost of reducing emissions in various pollution reduction regimes. A good example of the successful application of this idea is the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Air Markets program (<http://www.epa.gov/airmarkt/index.html>), which uses tradable allowances for sulfur dioxide emissions to help utilities achieve their emissions reduction targets more quickly and at a much lower cost per ton than originally expected. Trading also provides flexibility to participants by enabling them to purchase allowances at the end of the compliance period if they are unable to make their targets.

Production Tax Credits

Renewable Energy Tax Credit Saved Once Again, but Boom-Bust Cycle in Wind Industry Continues
http://www.ucsusa.org/clean_energy/clean_energy_policies/production-tax-credit-for-renewable-energy.html

Washington Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency

DSIRE – Database of State Incentives for Renewable Energy - <http://www.dsireusa.org/>.