

EPA's

# Green Power Communities

An Environmental Choice for Your Community



## What Is Green Power?

Cities and towns across the country are increasingly recognizing the roles they can play in fighting climate change. Many of these leading local governments are partnering with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to become Green Power Communities (GPCs). GPCs are towns, villages, cities, counties, or Native American tribes in which the local government, businesses, and residents collectively buy green power in amounts that meet or exceed EPA's GPC purchase requirements.

### Become an EPA Green Power Community

EPA is ready to assist your community in contributing to a clean energy future through a green power purchase. Joining is as easy as 1-2-3:

1. The local government must join the Green Power Partnership as a partner and buy green power for its operations in amounts that meet EPA minimum purchase requirements. The local government can be a town, village, city, county, or Native American tribe.
2. The local government (or its designee) initiates a community-wide green power campaign to encourage local businesses and residents to buy or produce green power in amounts that meet the GPC purchase requirements. EPA is available to provide technical and outreach assistance.
3. Once the community has collectively met the GPC minimum purchase requirement, the local government submits a signed GPC Partnership Agreement to EPA and commits to annually updating EPA on its total green power and electricity use.

### Clean Renewable Energy

Green power is electricity generated from environmentally preferable renewable resources, such as solar, wind, geothermal, low-impact biomass, and low-impact hydro resources.

### An Environmental Choice

Conventional electricity is one of the most significant environmental impacts in your community. Purchasing or using on-site green power is one of the easiest ways for a community to reduce its carbon footprint.

### Supporting Domestic Energy Supply

Using green power helps to accelerate the development of new, domestic renewable energy sources, while playing an important role in the security of America's energy supply.

Join Now and Position Your Community for the Future



# Benefits for Green Power Communities

## Why Buy Green Power?

- A green power purchase is an easy and effective way for a community to reduce its carbon footprint.
- A local government purchase of green power can demonstrate civic leadership and spur local residents and businesses to follow suit.
- Using green power can create positive publicity and enhance your community's public image, including increasing citizen pride.
- Purchasing green power can be a stepping stone for more sustainable action within a community.

EPA's Green Power Partnership is ready to assist you in achieving your environmental goals through a green power purchase. The Green Power Partnership offers the following assistance to communities that join the Partnership.

## Publicity and Recognition

EPA actively promotes and recognizes Green Power Communities as environmental leaders. Your community can benefit from EPA's recognition and publicity efforts by:

- Being highlighted on EPA's website ([www.epa.gov/greenpower/communities](http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/communities))
- Using the EPA Green Power Partner mark on marketing materials and websites.
- Becoming eligible for EPA's Green Power Community of the Year Award
- Receiving two Green Power Community signs for outdoor display

Welcome  
to a  
**Green Power  
Community**  
We exceed EPA  
guidelines for buying  
clean renewable energy



## Tools and Resources

EPA offers communities a variety of tools and resources located on the EPA website. EPA's tools and resources can be invaluable by:

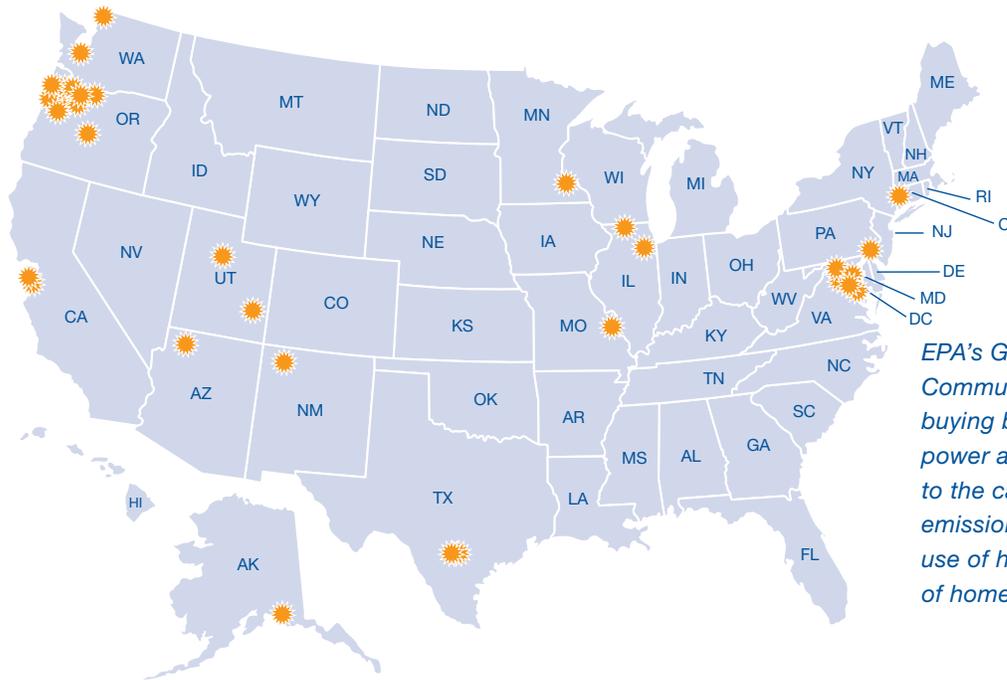
- Offering relevant and timely answers to procurement questions
- Fostering peer-exchange opportunities for communities to share information on best practices and lessons learned about green power procurement
- Assisting with messaging and promoting the concept of green power to your community stakeholders
- Providing you with a means to estimate the environmental benefits of switching to green power

## Credibility

Becoming a GPC signifies that your community's green power commitment meets nationally accepted standards in terms of size, content, and resource base. This allows for you to compare your community's green power commitment to others and increase your community's stakeholders' confidence in your purchase.



# GPCs Across the Country



*EPA's Green Power Communities are collectively buying billions of kWh of green power annually, equivalent to the carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from the electricity use of hundreds of thousands of homes.*

## Santa Clara, California

Since 2008, the City of Santa Clara, California, has been a proud EPA Green Power Community. With nine percent of residents and businesses in the community purchasing green power, Santa Clara is near the top of the list of EPA Green Power Communities using the most kilowatt-hours of green power annually and is home to EPA's top green power user, Intel Corporation. In February 2007, the City Council issued a challenge to its residents to use clean power; people responded, and ever since, enrollment in green power programs has been climbing.



## River Falls, Wisconsin

The City of River Falls, Wisconsin, is located in northwestern Wisconsin. The city's public power provider, River Falls Municipal Utilities, coordinated and implemented a community-wide effort to "green" the city by demonstrating the effectiveness of energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable resource development. As a result, the community's businesses and residences purchase more than 17 million kWh of green power annually.



## Washington, D.C.

In 2011, Washington, D.C., became the largest EPA Green Power Community and won the first-ever GPC Challenge, using more than 750 million kilowatt-hours of green power annually, equal to more than eight percent of total electricity consumption. Upon achieving EPA recognition, the District of Columbia immediately set a new target of using 10 percent green power in order to maintain its No. 1 ranking in the Green Power Community Challenge. "This is a huge honor for Washington, D.C., and we are proud to be recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency," said Mayor Vincent Gray. "The purchase of green power by our citizens and businesses is cleaning our air and supporting growth of the clean energy economy."



## Cornwall, Connecticut

In 2010 the Town of Cornwall, Connecticut, became the first EPA Green Power Community in New England. The Town's green power campaign was led by the Cornwall Energy Task Force, which, through a grassroots effort, was able to motivate more than 30 percent of the local households to switch to green power. In recognition of the Task Force's accomplishments promoting clean energy and environmentally-friendly actions, they were honored by the Governor at an event in Hartford in 2009.



## Launch Your Green Power Campaign Today

Join other leading U.S. communities by launching a green power campaign today. Before signing the GPC Partnership Agreement, communities must be collectively purchasing or producing green power on-site in amounts that meet EPA requirements. The table below outlines the respective EPA Green Power Community purchase requirements based on the community's electricity use. Working with your local utility or power provider, determine the amount of electricity used within the community boundary (city limits). The community must collectively use green power in amounts that meet or exceed the corresponding percentage for the matching baseload electricity use level.

### Green Power Community Purchase Requirements

If your community's annual electricity use in kilowatt-hours is...	Your community must, at a minimum, use this much green power to qualify as a GPC...
≥ 100,000,001 kWh	3% of your use
10,000,001-100,000,000 kWh	5% of your use
1,000,001-10,000,000 kWh	10% of your use
≤ 1,000,000 kWh	20% of your use

## About EPA's Green Power Partnership

The Green Power Partnership is a voluntary program that encourages organizations to buy green power as a way to reduce the environmental impacts associated with purchased electricity use. The Partnership currently has nearly 1,300 Partner organizations voluntarily purchasing billions of kilowatt-hours of green power annually. Partners include a wide variety of leading organizations such as Fortune 500® companies, small and medium sized businesses, local, state, federal, and tribal governments, and colleges and universities.

## For More Information:

[www.epa.gov/greenpower/communities/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/communities/index.htm)

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# EPA's Green Power Community Challenge

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is hosting its second annual national, year-long campaign to encourage communities coast-to-coast to use renewable energy and fight climate change. The goal of the Green Power Community Challenge is to add 20 new Green Power Communities across the United States. As part of the campaign, Communities will compete to see which one can achieve the highest green power percentage of total electricity use and which one can use the most green power. The winning communities will be declared in September 2012. The winners of the first annual Challenge were Brookeville, MD (highest green power percentage) and Washington, D.C. (most green power). We congratulate all 33 GPCs who went beyond the Challenge goal of doubling the collective amount of green power used by GPCs.

## How Does the Challenge Work?

Over the course of a year, GPCs will track and report their collective green power use and green power percentage of total electricity use. GPCs will be ranked according to the two award categories on EPA's website on a quarterly schedule.

## What Will Happen During the Challenge?

The Challenge began in September 2011. EPA will update the rankings in December 2011, March 2012, and June 2012. Communities will be able to review the standings and make changes to their purchases until September 1, 2012, when the final green power use is determined. Throughout the Challenge, EPA will provide technical and outreach assistance to participants to help them increase their green power usage rates.

The winning GPCs will receive special recognition from EPA, including being featured on the GPP website and in a nationally-released press announcement.

*Congrats to our 2010–2011 GPC Challenge winners, Washington, D.C. and Brookeville, MD!*