

GREENPOWER



WHAT IS GREENPOWER?

Certified 'GreenPower' refers to renewable electricity which has undergone a government accreditation process to ensure that it meets a range of benchmarks.

The renewable sources supported by GreenPower can include large solar thermal plants, solar panels, wind farms and hydro-power. Some companies even let you decide which kind of renewable technology you'd like your electricity purchase to support. Importantly, the renewable energy has to be new infrastructure built after 1996 for it to be accredited GreenPower.

WHY GET GREENPOWER?

Even if you can't install solar panels or build a wind farm in your back yard, you can still purchase renewable energy called GreenPower for your home. By purchasing GreenPower you can encourage energy retailers to source more of their electricity from renewable sources.

The advantage of GreenPower is that you don't have to pay the upfront costs of solar panels, and no approval is required from you landlord if you are renting.

Even if you have a photovoltaic solar panel or two, there may be times when you need to draw electricity from the grid. By making sure the energy you purchase is GreenPower accredited, you can reduce your impact on the environment.



HOW DOES IT WORK?

GreenPower describes the arrangement where householders or businesses can pay for energy retailers to source the equivalent amount of energy used, from renewable sources. By purchasing accredited GreenPower, you are encouraging investment in renewable energy instead of greenhouse polluting coal-fired power stations.

You can decide whether to purchase all of your electricity from accredited GreenPower, or just a percentage such as 10% or 50%. To have the biggest positive impact for the environment, it is best to go for 100% GreenPower if you can afford it.

Some energy retailers offer cheaper 'renewable energy' but because it is from old hydro-power stations, it is not encouraging investment in new renewable energy, which at the large scale is necessary to reduce greenhouse gas pollution. For this reason it is worth checking that what you are offered is properly accredited GreenPower.

HOW YOU CAN GET IT!

To get GreenPower all you have to do is call to your energy retailer to see what they can offer you. It is worth comparing companies to get the best deal.

A full list of accredited GreenPower retailers, as well as an independent assessment of GreenPower products is available here:

- > www.greenelectricitywatch.org.au
- > www.greenpower.gov.au