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Green Power, Anyone?

Klickitat PUD would like to know if our customers are interested in a local green power program. Many utilities are offering their customers an opportunity to purchase environmentally preferred green power. Green power produces little, if any, emissions and few negative environmental effects.

Examples are wind, solar, biomass and small-scale hydropower. Klickitat PUD's McNary hydro facility is a small-scale hydro project installed as a fish-enhancement project. It mitigates, or reduces, harm to migrating juvenile salmon passing through the fish attraction water to McNary Dam's north shore fish ladder. Large-scale hydro has not been categorically endorsed as green power because of the environmental effects on fish.

Biomass is energy from wood, garbage and agricultural wastes. It is an organic material, which has stored sunlight in the form of chemical energy. Klickitat PUD's H.W. Hill Landfill Gas (LFG) Generating Station is using biomass energy in an environmentally responsible way to control emissions.

A landfill gas plant captures methane gas as garbage decomposes. As a greenhouse gas, landfill-produced methane is 21 times more damaging to the environment than carbon dioxide (CO₂). Greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere trap sunlight and raise the earth's temperature. Many believe the cumulative effects of this can be disastrous. Each megawatt-hour of generation from a biomass generator, such as LFG, offsets generation emissions that would have occurred at a fossil-fueled gas-turbine generator. Oregon's Climate Trust, an agency entrusted with mitigating effects from generation of electricity, states each KPUD engine at the landfill "removes 342,000 metric tons of CO₂, equal to removing 58,000 cars from the road for a year."

Klickitat PUD also is a partner in the development of a large-scale wind project in eastern Klickitat County, and we participate in small-scale wind development through Northwest Seed. Percentagewise, Klickitat PUD's power supply has more green power than most other utilities.

Many electric utilities' customers want to participate in the choice of where their power supply comes from. A strong environmental ethic spurs them to act to ensure they are being good environmental stewards. Utilities have developed green power programs to satisfy this demand.

Typically, a green power program asks participants to pay the incremental cost for this generation, about half a cent per kilowatt-hour. Power is sold in blocks of 1,000 kilowatt-hours for \$5 above the residential rate—the average monthly usage for a home in Klickitat County. Some of Klickitat PUD's energy is sold wholesale to other utilities for their green power sales program.

If you are interested in a green power program, drop us a note with your bill, or give Miquette Ihrig in Energy Services a call at 773-7622. Rest assured we are doing our best to acquire the lion's share of your power supply from clean, renewable generation that will serve us all well, long into the future.

Tom D. Svendsen, General Manager

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