

News Release

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Columbus Division of Power Offers Green Energy Options

The Columbus Division of Power is introducing its Green Power Initiative that will enable the Division and its customers to consume energy more sustainably, and contribute to renewable energy growth throughout the country.

The Green Power Initiative includes:

- 20% of the Division's total power purchased from renewable energy sources by 2018; this is in addition to the power purchased from a local renewable bio-waste facility.
- A demand response program allowing large consumers to gain financial incentives by reducing their electricity usage during peak periods.
- A plan to replace old meters with a new advanced metering infrastructure to improve communications, accuracy, and timeliness of electricity services.

“By purchasing from renewable energy sources we are diversifying our energy portfolio, supporting the grid, and supporting local energy generation,” said Patti Austin, Administrator at the Division of Power. **“These programs answer the many requests made by our customers to be greener.”**

The Division offers the EcoSmart Choice program which allows customers to offset their monthly energy consumption with renewable energy certificates. More than 150 city facilities have already been enrolled in the program. The Division is encouraging their customers to get involved by enrolling in the EcoSmart Choice program.

- For residential customers, the average cost to offset 100% power each month is about the same as a cup of coffee.
- For commercial and industrial customers, offsetting at least 50% power each month can provide 1 point toward LEED certification and other sustainability goals.

“This program helps ensure the Department is practicing superior environmental stewardship on all fronts,” said Patti Austin.

Programs under the Division's Green Power Initiative help support the greenhouse gas reduction objectives of Smart Columbus. The Division of Power will work with other existing programs like GreenSpot to continue the city's commitment to help everyone live and work a little greener.

For more information on the Green Power Initiative and how to get involved with EcoSmart Choice, visit our website: <https://www.columbus.gov/power/>.

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