What is EcoSmart Choice®?
EcoSmart Choice® is a 100% renewable energy option available to residential, commercial and industrial customers.

How Does EcoSmart Choice® Work?
• Renewable energy is captured from naturally occurring sources such as solar, wind, biomass and hydroelectric power, rather than by burning non-renewable fossil fuels or nuclear power.
• When you sign up, EcoSmart Choice® will match your electricity usage with renewable energy certificates (RECs).
• These certificates are taken off the market so they cannot be resold.
• You will not receive electricity from a specific generation facility; instead, your purchase allows renewable energy to be delivered to regional power grids.
• Customers may opt out at any time with no penalty.

Benefits
• Supports the Smart Columbus greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal.
• Increases the demand for renewable energy.
• Reduces the environmental impacts of energy generation.

An average customer can offset 8,500 pounds of CO₂ emissions each year, which is the equivalent of not driving your car 10,000 miles.

Pricing
The cost for residential customers is an additional $0.005 (half a cent) per kWh. The amount due is based on total usage and will be itemized on monthly bills.

As an example, a customer using 1,000 kWh would pay an additional $5 that month.

Commercial and industrial customers can offset 25, 50, 75 or 100% of their electricity usage at an additional $0.005 per kWh. Offsetting at least 50% can earn a LEED point.
LEED certification results in: healthier, more productive workplaces; reduced stress on the environment by encouraging energy and resource-efficient buildings; savings from increased building value; higher lease rates and decreased utility costs. Based on the number of points achieved, a project receives one of four LEED rating levels: Certified, Silver, Gold and Platinum.

The City of Columbus’ Smart Columbus plan won the U.S. Department of Transportation’s (U.S. DOT) $40 million Smart City Challenge in June 2016 to become the country’s first city to fully integrate innovative technologies – self-driving cars, connected vehicles and smart sensors – into its transportation network.

Columbus was also awarded an additional $10 million grant from Paul G. Allen’s Vulcan, Inc. to accelerate the transition to an electrified, low-emissions transportation system. Smart Columbus is a regional initiative co-led by the City of Columbus and Columbus Partnership that includes The Ohio State University, Battelle, American Electric Power and many more.

For more information, visit the Smart Columbus website https://www.columbus.gov/smartcolumbus/.