

The Green Notebook Green Energy Resources

Renewable energy is a hot topic recently with global warming storming the headlines. Right now, roughly eight percent of our nation's electricity production comes from renewable resources like wind, solar, hydroelectric and biomass. Locally, American Electric Power Ohio offers a Green Pricing Option to its customers, which supports renewable energy options in our region.

It works like this: AEP purchased Renewable Energy Certificates from an organization using landfill gas (methane) to produce energy. They have repackaged these certificates into Green Product blocks—rather like carbon offset certificates. Customers can purchase these options at \$.70 each, which is equivalent to 100 kilowatt-hours of renewable electricity. The requirement is that you purchase at least two “blocks” of the Green Product. You can do this one time or sign up for an automatic monthly purchase.

By participating, you help support the generation of renewable energy throughout the Ohio and West Virginia area, according to Kevin Walker, AEP Ohio president and chief operating officer.

So, for an additional \$1.40 a month, you can support the Green Pricing Option and for an additional \$7.00 you can replace 100 percent of your residential usage with renewable energy. Your purchase, in addition to your electric bill, offsets your consumption by supporting a renewable energy option. Make sense? Clear as mud, right?

Well, to find out more or to enroll, you can call AEP's Customer Solutions Center anytime at 1-800-277-2177 or log onto www.AEPOhio.com.

To explore your options for saving energy and using renewable energy at home, at work, in our community and while driving, check out the Guide to Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy from the U.S. Department of Energy or call 1-800-472-2756.

Another excellent resource is Green Energy Ohio (GEO) which sponsors the Ohio Solar tour, various publications, network meetings, speaker's bureau and amazing resources on everything from tax incentives to making decisions in a clean energy system for your home. You can learn more at www.greenenergyohio.org or call 614-985-6131 for more information or to join GEO.

The Ohio Rural Electric Coop and Buckeye Power also have an interesting article called “Renewable Energy—A Reality Check” on their website at www.buckeyepower.com/news_stories.

The resources out there are many. I am sure to visit this topic again, as Ohio is up to many amazing inroads in this field.

Tuesday Trippier lives in Delaware, is a writer and mother of three with an interest in green living.