

## **TVA touts benefits of wind power**

*Nothing here on the enormous cost of wind even with Government financial payments.*

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Rick Carson, program manager for the Tennessee Valley Authority's Renewable Options Programs, said Tuesday night that wind turbines are a valuable source of clean, renewable energy.

Carson was in town to answer questions concerning wind turbines and TVA's Green Power Switch program, designed to produce electricity from cleaner, greener sources and add it to the power mix. Resources like wind, solar power and methane gas produce energy for today and renew themselves for tomorrow.

"This gives people in the Tennessee Valley the chance to support green power," Carson said. "You can do that by buying blocks of green power. You can participate through participating power distributors."

TVA relies on fossil fuels, nuclear power and hydroelectric plants to create electricity, but the agency is exploring other sources of energy, including wind energy, produced at sites like one outside Oak Ridge that features 262-foot high turbines. The 18 turbines produce enough energy to serve 3,780 homes, all through the power of the wind.

"This is the first step in looking at other sources of power," Carson said. "One of the big advantages of green power is no pollution and no emissions."

Fifteen of the 18 turbines in the wind farm near Oak Ridge went into operation in December. The original three smaller turbines have been going since October 2000.

"This is the only type of operation in the Southeast," Carson said. "In the future, if we had a demand for more or a national mandate for green power, then we would consider wind power. Right now, wind and solar power are only about 1 percent of the power that TVA makes."

Carson said some people have a problem with the appearance of the wind turbines.

"Visibility is a big issue," he said. "I think (the wind turbines) are majestic, but a few others might not. That's the issue. I think a secondary issue with a few people would be bird and bat mortality, but those aren't show stoppers. TVA has done detailed avian and bat surveys to look at that."