

## Roseville to buy clean, renewable (and more expensive) energy to offset gas, coal sources.

*The rallying cries, ... "Three gourmet coffees or one medium pizza can change the world," ... are nonsense. The consequence of even more cost will bite the town later.*

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Roseville's Civic Center and electric utility headquarters are going green with energy.

The city will spend \$28,000 a year to buy 2,100 megawatt hours of renewable energy, which will offset the gas and coal-generated power used at the Civic Center and Roseville Electric administration building.

Mayor Gina Garbolino made the announcement during a press conference Monday to formally launch the utility's new Green Roseville program that promotes the use of clean, renewable energy sources.

"This not only shows our commitment to clean energy, but we'll be reducing the amount of carbon dioxide released into the air by 1.69 million pounds a year," Garbolino said.

The purchase is equivalent to taking 147 cars off the road or planting 223 acres of trees every year, Garbolino said.

"That's a huge impact," she said. "We can all breathe a little easier."

Customers who sign up for Green Roseville pay 1.5 cents more per kilowatt-hour. Roseville Electric uses the money to purchase wind power and solar power equal to the amount used by those customers.

"It's one of the little things customers can do to help us reduce Roseville Electric's dependency on nonrenewable energy," Assistant Electric Utility Director Michelle Bertolino said Monday.

More than 400 customers have signed up for Green Roseville. City officials hope to have 2,000 participants by next year.

Green Roseville is a revamped version of an earlier program that started in February 2000, coordinator Beverley VanArkel said.

The older program used any type of renewable power generated all over the country. Green Roseville, however, uses only wind and solar energy produced in California.

"Wind and solar power are the greenest, or cleanest, of the renewables," VanArkel said. "It was also very attractive to us to be able to stay in California."

Buying California power helps keep regional air quality cleaner and supports the state's farmers, because some of the wind energy facilities are on farmland, she said.

A majority of the Green Roseville power will be generated by wind, while 2.5 percent will be solar energy.

Some of that solar energy will be generated at Roseville's own Fire Station No. 6 on East Roseville Parkway.

The average residential customer, using 800 kilowatt-hours of electricity, will pay an extra \$12 to \$15 a month to participate in Green Roseville.

"Three gourmet coffees or one medium pizza can change the world," VanArkel said.

A part of Green Roseville participants' extra 1.5 cents also helps build and promote renewable energy facilities in Roseville, such as the solar panels at Fire Station No. 6.

Myra Schimke, one of the first residents to sign up for the earlier green energy program, was quick to switch to Green Roseville.

"It's a small way of telling the large energy suppliers that Americans want clean, safe, renewable power instead of polluted power you get from coal and gas companies," Schimke said. "And it's so easy. It's easier than recycling my newspapers."

Roseville Electric is one of three utilities in California with a green energy program certified by the national Center for Resource Solutions, including Palo Alto and the Sacramento Municipal Utility District.

SMUD's Greenergy program has 20,000 participants and is the third-largest green energy program in the nation, according to its Web site.