

ENERGY *wise*

FOR YOUR HOME



Wellspring – Your Personal Opportunity to Support Wind Power!

While the electricity that is delivered to your home includes increasing amounts of renewable energy, our Wellspring Renewable Wind Energy® program, allows energy-conscious customers the option of helping us do even more for the environment.

By making the choice to participate in Wellspring, you not only help support wind energy development in Minnesota, but also help reduce our dependency on non-renewable energy sources, like coal and other fossil fuels.

What does participating in Wellspring mean?

Wellspring wind energy is a voluntary program offered to our customers. While the electricity that is delivered to all homes and businesses includes some renewable energy in the mix, including wind, participating in the Wellspring program is an added bonus. In the last few years, additional turbines were built specifically for those who subscribe to Wellspring. As long as there is an additional demand for Wellspring wind energy, more turbines will be built.

How does the program work?

- An average home uses a total of 800 – 1,000 kWh hours of electricity per month
- You can purchase Wellspring Wind Energy in 100 kWh blocks
- Eight to ten blocks is equivalent to an average home's monthly electric use
- Participating customers pay an additional amount on their electric bills

How long do I have to stay on the program?

You must remain on the program for at least 12 months. After 12 months you may discontinue participation at any time.

Where is Wellspring wind energy produced?

Wind energy is produced using wind turbines located in southwestern and south central Minnesota.

How does wind energy work?

Large blades are attached to a generator on top of a tall tower. As the wind blows, the spinning blades cause the generator to turn. This generates electricity that is transmitted over wires to homes and businesses.

Is the wind power supplied directly to my home or business?

No. The electricity generated by the wind turbines is fed into the state's electric system, called the grid. It is like pouring a pitcher of water into a pond. You can't get the water from the pitcher back out of the pond. The same holds true for recapturing wind-generated electricity from the grid. It is there; available to use, but to deliver the exact electron generated by the wind turbine is not possible. However, the wind power that you purchase replaces electricity that would have been generated by conventional fuels.

Will I still receive traditional power sources?

Yes. You won't be able to distinguish whether the

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electrons flowing into your home is generated by wind power or not. But, you can be assured the commitment to purchase Wellspring Wind Energy will result in the construction of new wind generators that will help lessen our reliance on coal and other fossil fuels.

Will power in my home or business be dependent on the wind blowing?

No. Your power will continue as usual because additional generation is built to ensure power is supplied when the wind is not blowing. This is typically natural gas powered generation.

Can we generate all our electricity from wind?

No. Wind is a great way to meet some of our electricity needs. However, without a way to store the energy, wind could never generate all of our electricity needs because the wind doesn't blow all the time. Quite often, wind doesn't blow at all during some of the hottest days of summer, when people are using the most electricity. Wind is a good option, and we need to continue to harness its power. Wind-generated electricity is an important part of the overall mix of generation options.

Is wind energy cheaper to produce than other generation options?

Not yet. Some day wind may be a cheaper alternative. Today, it is still more expensive than traditional generation methods. By providing financial incentives, the government

has helped increase the growth of wind energy. As technology advances and costs come down, wind becomes more and more cost competitive. Another factor is that the windiest areas are often far from the areas that need the power. Therefore, transmission lines need to be built, and this adds to the overall cost of wind energy.

What are the environmental impacts of wind generators?

Wind has minimal environmental impact. There is a risk if a bird flies into the spinning turbine. However, the new large turbine blades rotate at a relatively slow speed and have a much lower risk to birds than earlier turbine designs. Overall, the number of animal deaths from turbines is very small. Many more birds are killed from other human-related impacts such as buildings and vehicles than by wind turbines.

Visual impact and noise are two other environmental factors related to wind generating towers. Proper placement and design can help the visual impact and new turbines are quieter than the older ones.

Contact us

For any questions, please contact Agralite Electric Cooperative for more information at 1-800-950-8375.

How do I sign up for Wellspring?

To help lessen our dependence on fossil fuels, make a positive impact on the environment and support the future of wind energy. Sign up for Wellspring Energy today! Return this form to:

Agralite Electric Cooperative,
PO Box 228
Benson, MN 56215

- _____ 1 block (100 kWh) - \$0.60/Month
- _____ 2 blocks (200 kWh) - \$1.20/Month
- _____ 3 blocks (300 kWh) - \$1.80/Month
- _____ 4 blocks (400 kWh) - \$2.40/month
- _____ 5 blocks (500 kWh) - \$3.00/month
- _____ Other, please specify the number desired.

We will need to know your

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Agralite Account Number: _____



Agralite
Electric
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ENERGY®
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative