

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



OnCampus ecoAmbassadors

OnCampus ecoAmbassadors are college students who implement projects from EPA's partnership programs to help carry out the Agency's mission to protect human health and the environment. The program is open to ANY college student, regardless of program, age, or background. Students from any college or university are welcome to participate. All interested students are encouraged to participate.

Did you know?

- "Green power" describes electricity that is produced from renewable sources, which have a lesser environmental impact than conventional energy sources.
- Green power sources produce less anthropogenic (human caused) greenhouse gas emissions than conventional sources.

What does it take to be green-powered?

To be considered "green-powered," at least 3 percent of the annual electricity purchased by a school must come from renewable sources. Purchasing more than 30 percent puts your school in the leadership category.

Learn More

For more information, please visit:
www.epa.gov/greenpower



Green Power Partnership Project

The Green Power Partnership is a voluntary program sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that encourages organizations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by purchasing electricity produced from renewable resources such as solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, and low-impact hydroelectric. The Green Power Partnership program helps organizations:

- Identify the types of green power products that align with their goals
- Lower the costs of buying green power
- Reduce their carbon footprint and greenhouse gas emissions
- Gain positive attention for improving environmental performance

Goals of the Green Power Partnership Project

- Reduce your school's greenhouse gas emissions
- Increase awareness on campus about the benefits of green power
- Raise funds to purchase green power from renewable energy sources
- Lead your school to become an EPA Green Power Partner

If You're Interested In:

- Gathering and analyzing data about energy use on your campus
- Calculating electricity loads and renewable energy requirements
- Setting renewable energy purchase goals
- Working with your student government and campus administration

... then the Green Power Partnership is the project for you!

See page 2 for a step-by-step checklist
 for the Green Power Partnership Project.



Students Taking Action

The University of Pennsylvania (Penn) is using its purchase of green power as an opportunity to demonstrate environmental leadership. Penn became the nation's largest non-governmental purchaser of wind power on Earth Day 2003 when it announced that it would double its wind power purchase, the highest nationally at that time, to 40 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) annually. In 2008, Penn increased its renewable energy certificate purchase to over 190 million kWh. Penn is funding its historic wind power purchases with savings achieved through aggressive energy conservation. Over the past few years, Penn reduced peak electric demand by 18 percent.

The Green Power Partnership Project is ideal for students pursuing degrees in business, environmental science, engineering, and public policy.

Checklist for the Green Power Partnership Project

Follow the steps below to make your campus, or building, green-powered.

☐ 1. How much non-renewable power is being used on your campus?

Find the facilities employee responsible for the electricity bills. Confirm that renewable energy is not currently being purchased. In order to determine how much green power you'll need to buy, start by finding out the current demand in kilowatt hours (kWh) of the campus (or building or entity) you are targeting. Ask for 12 months of electrical bills – or at least 6 months so you can estimate a year's usage. Keep in mind that air conditioning and heat are energy "hogs," so you'll want to include numbers for extreme seasons.

A. Annual electricity use: _____ kilowatt hours (kWh)

☐ 2. How much green power do you want to purchase?

Determine the percentage of annual electricity use that your campus wants to purchase as green power.

B. Goal: _____ % of the annual electricity use

C. Amount of green power to purchase: _____ kWh (A x B)

☐ 3. How much will the green power purchase cost?

Calculate the estimated cost of the green power using the average cost of buying 1 kWh of green power. Visit www.epa.gov/greenpower/pubs/gplocator.htm to identify green power products available in your area and the price per kWh for each.

D. Average cost of green power: \$_____ per kWh

E. Annual green power purchase cost: \$_____ (C x D)

☐ 4. How much will each student need to pay?

Divide the cost of the annual green power purchase by the number of students. Note: if you are converting the entire school to green power, you may be able to divide the green power purchase cost by the total number of students, but if you are converting a dorm, you may only charge current or future dorm residents.

F. Entity for which you are buying green power: _____

G. Number of students per year for the entity: _____ students per year

H. Annual cost of green power per student: \$_____ per student (E / G)

☐ 5. How can the student fee be instituted?

You have enough research and information to approach the student government and your campus administrators! Remember, by using renewable energy at your school, you are reducing your school's greenhouse gas emissions which cause climate change. Use your campus presentation as "talking points" – that is, information for you to share with others during meetings with students and administrators.

☐ 6. How do you purchase green power?

Once the student government agrees to collect the student fee, your work is done! Ask your campus facilities office to contact the EPA Green Power Partnership to help make the green power purchase, and to become an EPA partner!

Resources

Estimating Annual Electricity Use

If you can't obtain the actual electricity amounts, usage can be estimated using the square footage of the building and a national average.

Total square footage	_____	ft ²
National average	x	14.9 kWh/ft ²
Annual electricity use	=	_____ kWh

EPA Green Power Requirements

After January 1, 2011, EPA Green Power Partners must purchase a minimum percentage of green power based on their annual electricity use.

Annual Electricity Use	Minimum Purchase
≥ 100,000,001 kWh	3% of total use
10,000,001 - 100,000,000 kWh	5% of total use
1,000,001 - 10,000,000 kWh	10% of total use
≤ 1,000,000 kWh	20% of total use

Tips for Successful Events

1. Find a suitable space.
2. Put up posters to advertise the event.
3. Create a Facebook event.
4. Ask friends to spread the word.
5. Plan to have snacks available – find out if you can get donations.
6. Arrange for music at the event.
7. Arrive early to set up the space, including snacks and music.
8. Use sign-up sheets to record attendance.
9. Create a written summary of the event.

EPA Contact Info

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EPA OnCampus Websites

Visit the EPA website at
www.epa.gov/ecoambassadors/oncampus



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