

# ENERGY WISE

for your Home



**While the electricity that is delivered to your home includes increasing amounts of renewable energy, our Wellspring Renewable and Solar Energy® programs allows energy-conscious members 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.**

## WELLSPRING – YOUR PERSONAL OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT WIND AND SOLAR POWER!

The Wellspring program provides co-op members with an easy, affordable and meaningful way to support sustainable energy efforts. This program enables you to offset your conventional energy use and take pride in helping promote and expand renewable energy development.

Small acts can make a big impact. As more members support the program, more opportunities arise to generate power from renewable sources. Together, we can power the future.

### What does participating in Wellspring mean?

Wellspring is a voluntary program offered to our members. While the electricity that is delivered to all homes includes some renewable energy in the mix, including wind and solar, participating in the Wellspring program is an added bonus.

### How does the program work?

- An average home uses 800 – 1,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity per month
- You can purchase Wellspring energy in 100 kWh blocks
- Eight to 10 blocks is equivalent to an average home's monthly electric use
- Participating members pay an additional amount on their electric bills

[Note: This table needs to be customized based on your member co-op's Wellspring rules.]

| Renewable Energy Source | Cost/kWh block/month | Average Monthly Home at 800 kWh/month | Average Monthly Home at 1,000 kWh/month |
|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Renewables              | \$0.30/kWh block     | \$2.40/month                          | \$3/month                               |
| Solar                   | \$2.00/kWh block     | \$16/month                            | \$20/month                              |

### 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 renewable energy produced?

Renewable energy is produced from large wind turbines located mainly in southern Minnesota, northern Iowa or central North Dakota, or qualifying hydroelectric facilities in Manitoba, while the solar energy is produced by Great River Energy solar resources throughout the state of Minnesota. In 2020, nearly 24 megawatts (MW) of wind generation were dedicated to the Wellspring wind program. In 2020, wind resources will account for 657 MW of Great River Energy's total generation capacity and expected to grow to over 1,500 MWs by 2024. Currently, Great River Energy solar resources account for nearly 2 MW of total generation capacity. Approximately 272 kW are dedicated to the Wellspring solar program.

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# Wellspring – Your Personal Opportunity to Support Wind and Solar Power!

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## What exactly am I buying?

Those who participate in the Wellspring program are purchasing renewable energy credits (RECs). For every 1,000 kWhs of clean, renewable electricity generation, a REC is created. A REC embodies all of the environmental attributes of the generation and can be tracked separately from the underlying electricity.

## Is the Wellspring energy supplied directly to my home?

No. The electricity generated by the wind turbines and solar panels is fed into the region's electric system called the grid. It is like pouring a pitcher of water into a pond. Once it is poured into the pond, you cannot get the water from the pitcher back out again. The same holds true for recapturing wind and solar-generated electricity from the grid. It is there and available to use, but to deliver the exact electrons generated by the wind turbine or the solar panel is not possible. The wind and solar power you purchase replaces electricity that would have been generated by conventional fossil fuels.

## Will I still receive conventional power sources?

You will receive a mix of power sources. You won't be able to distinguish whether the electrons flowing into your home are generated by wind, solar or another resource. But, you can be assured the commitment to purchase Wellspring renewable and solar Energy help lessen our reliance on fossil fuels.

## Will power in my home be dependent on the wind blowing or the sun shining?

No. Your power will continue as usual because additional generation is built to ensure power is supplied when the wind is not blowing or the sun is not shining.

## Can we generate all our electricity from wind and solar?

No. Wind and solar are great ways to meet some of our electricity needs. However, wind and solar do not generate all of our electricity needs because the wind doesn't blow and the sun doesn't shine all the time.

## Who can participate?

To qualify for the program you must live in your local electric cooperative's service territory.

## How can I get started?

Contact your local electric cooperative to learn more about how to sign up for the Wellspring program.

## CONTACT US

Please contact [\[your local electric cooperative\]](#) for more information.