



North Carolina Department of Administration

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PUBLIC HEARINGS SEEK COMMENT ON PROPOSED RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAM

RALEIGH – Citizens interested in cleaner sources of power in North Carolina can voice their opinions about a program aimed at making it possible at one of three upcoming public hearings.

Several state electric utilities recently filed a proposal with the North Carolina Utilities Commission for the adoption of NC GreenPower, a program offering consumers the option of paying a small monthly premium to ensure that a portion of their electric power is generated from renewable resources.

Hearings to receive public comment on the proposed program have been scheduled as follows:

Raleigh – Monday, July 15, at 7 p.m. in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobbs Building, 430 N. Salisbury St.;
Greenville – Wednesday, July 17, at 7 p.m. in Courtroom DC-01, Pitt County Courthouse, Evans and Third Streets;
Asheville – Thursday, July 18, at 7 p.m. in District Courtroom No. 1, Buncombe County Courthouse, 60 Court Plaza.

Interested persons may also send written comments to the Utilities Commission on or before July 15. The commission's mailing address is 4325 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-4325.

If NC GreenPower is approved, North Carolina will become the first state in the nation to offer a statewide green pricing program, available to all electric consumers with participation from all of the state's investor-owned electric utilities – Carolina Power & Light, Duke Power, and Dominion North Carolina Power. Some ElectricCities members and North Carolina electric cooperatives will also participate.

NC GreenPower is designed to boost the production of "green power" -- electric power generated from renewable sources of electricity, such as wind, solar energy, water and biomass -- by creating a market and an incentive for companies to develop and sell it. Current market conditions often make it too expensive for companies to profitably develop and sell such alternative sources of electricity. Typically, "renewables" emit no or fewer pollutants at the point of power generation and are considered better for the environment than traditional fuel sources such as coal.

"With NC GreenPower, we have an opportunity to help meet our state's present and future energy needs in sustainable ways," said Larry Shirley, director of the State Energy Office and a member of the NC GreenPower advisory committee. The State Energy Office, housed in the N.C. Department of Administration, supports and promotes energy efficiency programs and renewable energy technologies and has a key role in the development of NC GreenPower.

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Administration Building

Physical Location: 116 West Jones Street, Raleigh, N.C.

Mailing Address: 1303 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1303

Under this program, electric customers could elect to pay \$4 or more a month for blocks of electricity produced from renewable resources. NC GreenPower will enter into contracts for that amount of electricity from North Carolina companies that produce electricity from renewable resources. An independent third party would certify that those blocks of electricity purchased under NC GreenPower are indeed produced from renewable sources.

NC GreenPower could be launched within six months of approval.

Advanced Energy, a nonprofit corporation that works in the area of energy efficiency, will administer the program.

Web sites on the topic can be found at:

<http://www.advancedenergy.org/greenpower/index.html> - Additional information on NC GreenPower

<http://www.eren.doe.gov/greenpower/home.shtml> - National perspectives about green power programs