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*Green Power Switch is a renewable energy initiative that offers consumers in the Tennessee Valley a choice in the type of power they buy. TVA and local public power companies, working in cooperation with the environmental community, developed Green Power Switch as a way to bring green power—electricity that's generated by cleaner, renewable resources like solar, wind, and methane gas—to Valley consumers.*

*Green Power Switch is sold to residential consumers in 150-kilowatt-hour blocks (about 12 percent of a typical household's monthly energy use). Each block adds \$4 to the customer's monthly power bill.*

For more information, visit [www.greenpowerswitch.com](http://www.greenpowerswitch.com).



Green Power Switch®

## *New Trio Teaches Nashville Elementary Students About Green Power*

Many memorable historical figures have come in groups of three. The Three Wise Men, for example, or the Three Stooges. Now there's the three Green Power Switch® characters. Haven't heard of them? They're Windy, Stinky, and Sunny, and hopefully they have left a lasting impression on Nashville elementary school students.

This fall schools in the metro Nashville area participated in *Building a Green Power Future*, sponsored by TVA, Nashville Electric Service (NES), Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation (MTEMC), and the Adventure Science Center. The program, for kindergarten through fourth grade, included a school assembly to educate students and faculty about green power, a poster contest inviting students to "draw a future powered by green energy," and a *How Green Is Your School?* challenge that offered a free night at the Adventure Science Center to the school that signed up the most green power participants.

NES and TVA kicked off the program at East Academy in Nashville. TVA's Jerry Cargile opened the assembly with an overview of GPS and introduced Sunny, Windy, and Stinky. The characters explained their role in green power production. Stinky was especially popular!

TVA's Angela Hamlin, who played Windy, was very impressed with the insightful questions asked by the children. "They had so many questions for the characters about solar power, wind



power, and methane gas that our 20-minute presentation lasted almost an hour. There were no ordinary questions, which speaks highly of the educational quality of the school."

TVA's Jolyn Newton was on hand to watch the program with her sons, who are students at the school. "Several of the teachers let me know that the assembly spurred great questions and discussions on energy once they returned to the classroom," says Newton. "One fourth grade teacher is new to the area, and he was not aware that TVA had a green power program. He has now signed up!"

Hamlin pointed out that educating children about GPS helps spread the word to adults. "Students help to pass the knowledge and excitement on to parents, relatives, and friends who might sign up for GPS," she says.

The program was offered this fall in Davidson, Rutherford, Wilson, and Williamson counties.

## SAVE ENERGY

### 10 simple things you can do

1. Recycle a soda can—save enough energy to power your computer for five hours.
2. Empty rooms love the dark—flip the switch when you leave.
3. Office equipment wastes energy when not in use—turn off idle equipment.
4. Buy products with recycled content and reduce energy consumption by 30%.
5. Look for the Energy Star label when you replace computers and office equipment.
6. Lower your hot water heater to 115° for some cool savings.
7. Use compact fluorescent light bulbs—in torchiere-style lamps, for example, they are safer and use much less energy.
8. Buy a programmable thermostat with an automatic setback—you can save 10% on your energy bill.
9. Take a ceramic mug to work—conserve the energy it takes to make 500 paper cups a year.
10. When you make copies, use both sides to double your energy and resource savings.

Source: Federal Energy Management Program

### Give the gift that keeps giving all year.

Purchase one block of GPS for one year in the name of someone special and give the gift of clean energy all year long. Simply visit our Web site for more information. The recipient will receive a card from GPS notifying him or her of your gift.

[www.greenpowerswitch.com](http://www.greenpowerswitch.com)

# What is *energy right*®?

The *energy right* program is an energy-efficiency initiative offered by TVA and participating local power companies to promote the wise and efficient use of electricity in homes and small businesses. The program offers a broad range of services, including an energy efficiency rating system for new home construction, which help residents and small business owners improve comfort while making the most of their energy dollars.

The *energy right* New Homes Program helps to ensure that consumers building new homes or buying manufactured homes have the resources and information they need to make their homes as energy efficient as possible. Builders and consumers receive information about home design, weatherization measures, infiltration reduction, and installation of efficient heat pumps, water heaters and appliances. This information helps them build homes that save money and promote responsible energy use. Site-built new homes are rated using an industry-accredited Home Energy Rating System software, which generates an energy efficiency score for each new home built.

Through the *energy right* Water Heater Program, consumers looking to reduce water heating costs can replace their old

water heaters with new, higher-efficiency models. Local power companies may offer cash incentives, discounted equipment, installation, rebates, and other incentives for purchasing an energy-efficient water heater.

With the *energy right* Heat Pump Program, TVA and local power companies offer convenient financing on heat pumps for existing homes. In addition to financing, the program offers consumers access to the Quality Contractor Network, which highlights the best in the business for installation of new heat pumps.

Finally, the *energy right* program also offers do-it-yourself energy audits that can be completed online or can be mailed in for processing. The *energy right* Home e-Valuation is fast and easy to complete. The user receives a detailed analysis of his or her energy use with valuable low-cost and no-cost recommendations to save money and energy.

With access to all of the information and incentives provided through the *energy right* program, homeowners can make informed decisions that will help them become more responsible energy consumers in addition to saving money on their monthly power bills.

For more information on the *energy right* program, visit [www.energyright.com](http://www.energyright.com).



*TVA recently presented Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse with the first Green Power Switch Leadership Award at the grand opening ceremony of the new Lowe's store in Springfield, Tennessee. In addition, the State of Tennessee presented Lowe's with the Tennessee Energy Leadership Award to recognize the company's commitment to environmental stewardship and energy-efficiency education.*

*Betsy Child (left), Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, presents the state award to Robin Nickles, Vice President of Facilities at Lowe's, while Jim Keiffer, TVA Senior Vice President of Marketing, holds the company's Green Power Switch Award. Gary Harris, Green Power Switch Program Manager, is at right.*

## Notes from our readers

Ever since GPS was offered by KUB, I've been a participant. I believe that renewable power is our ultimate fuel source and needs to be supported and grown as quickly as possible. When I recently moved, my top priority was making sure my GPS blocks were switched to my new address. Also, kudos for using 100% post-consumer recycled paper and soy-based inks in the GPS news! Keep up the good work.

**Jonathan, Maryville, TN**

Just wanted to tell you how pleased I was when we received our first brochure in the mail regarding green power. It's very refreshing to think that as a consumer I have some choice in where my utilities come from and

whether or not they are environmentally responsible.

**Lindsay, Murfreesboro, TN**

I'd like to see articles with tips on how the average person can conserve power and become more environmentally friendly. Also, I'd like to see a list of businesses contributing to Green Power. I would rather give my money to them than to others who do not see the importance of conservation.

**Zach, Sevierville, TN**

**GPS replies:** See energy-saving tips on page 2 and on back page. And for a list of the 300-plus businesses that support GPS, go to [www.greenpowerswitch.com](http://www.greenpowerswitch.com).

## Comments? Suggestions? Let us hear from you!

We'd like to know if you're satisfied with our quarterly newsletter, and we're interested in what you'd like to read in future issues.

Please write to us at Green Power Switch, P.O. Box 292409, OCP2-400, Nashville, TN 37229-2409, or send an e-mail message to [greenpowerswitch@tva.com](mailto:greenpowerswitch@tva.com). When you send us a story, we'll send you an official Green Power Switch T-shirt.

—Gary Harris  
Program Manager  
GREEN POWER SWITCH

## Help us save trees

If you would like to help us save paper by reading this newsletter online (it's available on the Web at [www.greenpowerswitch.com](http://www.greenpowerswitch.com)), we'll be happy to notify you by e-mail when future issues are published. E-mail us at [greenpowerswitch@tva.com](mailto:greenpowerswitch@tva.com) if you'd like to be taken off the snail-mail list and added to our electronic distribution list instead.

## Check out our updated Web site!

The Green Power Switch Web site has had a makeover. Besides the new look of our main page, we've added renewable energy illustrations, an updated list of businesses that support GPS, and links to other renewable energy sites.

It's all at [www.greenpowerswitch.com](http://www.greenpowerswitch.com).

## Mark your calendar

GPS Generation Partners plans to host orientations on the Technical Installation of Grid Connected Solar and Wind Systems in the coming months.

For more information, or if you wish to attend a session, please contact Carmen Copeland at [cacopeland@tva.gov](mailto:cacopeland@tva.gov).

## Generation update

### Solar power sites

Generation September 1 - November 30, 2003

Adventure Science Center	7,485 kWh
Dollywood Tram C	2,341 kWh
Dollywood Tram D/E	2,739 kWh
Gibson County High School	5,226 kWh
Ijams Nature Center	3,635 kWh
Cocke County High School	2,815 kWh
Duffield-Pattonville Elementary School	2,807 kWh
Sci Quest/North Alabama Science Center	9,354 kWh
American Museum of Science & Energy	4,530 kWh
Lovers Lane Soccer Complex	8,128 kWh
Finley Stadium	23,782 kWh
Oak Ridge National Laboratories	839 kWh
Florence Water Treatment Facility	10,159 kWh
University of Mississippi	9,415 kWh
Mississippi State University	4,183 kWh
<b>Total solar generation</b>	<b>97,438 kWh</b>

### Wind power site

Generation September 1 - November 30, 2003

Buffalo Mountain Wind Park	1,079,924 kWh
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### Methane gas site

Generation September 1 - November 30, 2003

City of Memphis Wastewater Treatment Facility	7,335,498 kWh
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## Participation update

<b>Total number of green power blocks subscribed:</b>	<b>22,494</b>
<b>Number of residential customers subscribing:</b>	<b>7009</b>
<b>Average number of green power blocks per residential customer:</b>	<b>1.7</b>

<b>Number of business customers subscribing:</b>	<b>354 business customers purchasing 10,343 blocks*</b>
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\*For a list of participating business customers, please visit [www.greenpowerswitch.com](http://www.greenpowerswitch.com).

## *Energy tips from a reader*

I don't profess to be an expert in the area of energy conservation. I am just the average Tennessee resident doing my share to save the planet and save money at the same time. Here are some of the ways we do this at home.

We lower our electricity use in winter by using the sun to heat and light the house. We open curtains and blinds during the day and close them at night. We also use a piece of radiant barrier material in each window to keep the heat from escaping. Weather stripping and caulking are a must.

One of our favorite tricks is to vent our dryer to the inside during the coldest months. The vent hose is connected to a plastic box filled with water, bought at a home supply store for under \$20. Not only do we capture the heat, it also helps with dry skin.

We set our thermostat at 62 degrees at night and 68 degrees during the daytime. We wear extra clothes to keep warm and close off any rooms we don't want to heat.

One of the odder things I do in winter is to place mirrors outside to reflect more heat and light into the house. I also use them in some interior windows to

reflect light to the darker areas of the house.

We turn off the hot water heater for most of the day. We turn it on early in the morning; and after morning showers and any hot-water washing, we turn it off. Our tank is insulated, and the water is still fairly hot the next morning.

We use compact fluorescent bulbs and hang clothes on the line to dry. I also use the microwave or toaster oven instead of the stove when possible.

We use cold water for washing clothes and air-dry dishes in the dishwasher. We only run the dishwasher and the clothes washer and dryer with full loads.

These are just a few of the many ways we conserve energy. Have any of our changes meant sacrifices? Not really. We have a warm house, plenty of food, hot water, etc., which is more than many people have. We save an average of 40 percent on our electric bills. But also, it makes me feel good inside knowing that I am doing my share to help the planet.

*Catherine Carter-Stiles*  
Knoxville, TN

[www.greenpowerswitch.com](http://www.greenpowerswitch.com)

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*TVA and your local public  
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