

News Release

FORT CARSON

Public Affairs Office

(719) 526-3420/4143

FAX (719) 526-1021



'The Mountain Post: An Army Power Projection Platform.'

Aug. 25, 2005

Release #05-066

Media Opportunity/ PSA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fort Carson Invests in Renewable Energy Production

Fort Carson, Colo. – Fort Carson partnered with eight other government agencies and signed a landmark agreement July 27 with the Western Area Power Authority, an agency of the U.S. Department of Energy, to purchase renewable energy certificates. The credits will come from a combination of Biomass (76 percent), from sawmills in California and wind farms (24 percent), located in California and Nebraska.

In California, a family will kick on their air conditioner to deal with summer heat using energy generated from sawdust and other wood waste (known as biomass) from a sawmill. In Nebraska, someone will watch a reality show on a television running on energy from a wind farm. The credit for the renewable energy used by these people will belong to Fort Carson.

According to Vince Guthrie, utilities program manager for the Directorate of Public Works, Fort Carson will purchase the certificates at about the same cost as current electricity rates (less than 1 percent increase). At approximately \$1 per million watt-hours, the RECs purchased will equate to approximately 2,450 hours of renewable energy produced or the annual power needs of 3,700 homes.

Buying the credits does not mean Fort Carson uses the actual renewable energy produced. Instead, they give Fort Carson credit for supporting renewable energy production, and thereby the companies producing the energy.

Our most commonly used energy sources (i.e., coal, oil, natural gas) are limited in supply, taking thousands, even millions of years to regenerate. In contrast, renewable energy sources (i.e., wind, sun, wood) are created daily, offering a limitless supply. By supporting renewable energy use, Fort Carson reduces the nation's dependency on foreign energy sources thereby helping to improve our national security and avoid rising costs.

The DPW and the Directorate of Environmental Compliance and Management spearheaded the initiative to support Fort Carson and community renewable energy goals. With this agreement, 28 percent of the energy purchased by Fort Carson comes from renewable sources.

According to WAPA, renewable energy helps the environment by reducing air and water pollution, and it creates new industries and jobs for generating the power.

For more information about RECs log on to www.wapa.gov and for information on the EPAs Green Power Partner program log on to <http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/join/index.htm>.

For more information contact the Fort Carson Public Affairs Office at (719) 526-3420/ 4143/7525. After hours please contact the 24-hour Emergency Operation Center at 526-5500 and ask for the On-Call Public Affairs Office.