GreenPower

GreenPower is a government-accredited scheme that ensures that electricity retailers purchase genuine renewable energy of the same quantity as paid for by their customers. This energy is only sourced from electricity generation by solar, wind, hydro or biomass that was established after 1997.

This renewable energy is then added to the grid which means some, or all of it, may be used by the customer who has paid the GreenPower premium.

Many electricity retailers provide their customers with the option of buying some, or all, of their electricity from renewable sources. According to Choice, choosing renewable energy can add an extra 20-50% to an electricity bill. The actual increase will depend on the electricity retailer's rates and the percentage of renewable energy purchased (e.g., 10%, 50% or 100%).

GreenPower is an easy way for a customer to pay for renewable energy. In 2016, there were 271,740 GreenPower customers – down from a peak of 904,716 customers in 2008. This reduction may be the result of customers installing their own solar panels rather than paying others to supply renewable energy.

Other ways of supporting renewable energy projects are:

☑ Donating to local community energy projects to pay for solar installations and energy efficiency measures. For example, Citizen's Own Renewable Energy Network Australia use donated funds to make loans to community energy projects. These projects use their electricity savings to repay the loan which enables CORENA to loan the funds to another community energy project.

☑ Purchasing renewable energy from a peer to peer platform such as LocalVolts

For more information:

➢ GreenPower http://www.greenpower.gov.au/#
➢ Choice (May 2017) Is GreenPower worth it? https://www.choice.com.au/home-improvement/energy-saving/reducing-your-carbon-footprint/articles/greenpower-renewable-energy
➢ Citizen's Own Renewable Energy Network Australia https://corenafund.org.au/
➢ LocalVolts https://localvolts.com/

Consider circulating these ideas from Alex Moors, a member of the St Aloysius' College, Milsons Point, Sustainability Committee:

Green tip:
Electrical appliances such as computers, sound systems, televisions and mobile phone chargers all consume power when plugged in on standby. Consider making it easy to turn electronics off when not in use by plugging them into a power strip and flipping off the power point switch.

Green tip:
Did you know you can reduce your computer's energy use by about 85% each day by two simple actions?
- *Turn off your computer before bed each night and before you go out for the day*
- *Reduce the timer setting for the computer's sleep mode for when the computer is idle, to just a short time*