

ENERGYWISE

for your Home



While the electricity that is delivered to your home includes increasing amounts of renewable energy, our Wellspring Renewable Wind & 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 & SOLAR POWER!

The Wellspring program provides co-op members with an easy, affordable and meaningful way to support sustainable energy efforts in their communities. By empowering members to buy energy from renewable sources, this program enables you to offset your conventional energy use and take pride in helping promote and expand renewable energy development in the state of Minnesota.

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 and businesses includes some renewable energy in the mix, including wind and solar, participating in the Wellspring program is an added bonus. Additional turbines and solar panels are built specifically for those who subscribe to Wellspring. As long as there is an increasing demand for Wellspring energy, more renewables will be added to our diverse mix of generation resources.

How does the program work?

- An average home uses 1,000 – 1,300 kWh hours of electricity per month
- You can purchase Wellspring Energy in 100 kWh blocks
- Ten to thirteen blocks is equivalent to an average home's monthly electric use
- Participating members pay an additional amount on their electric bills

Renewable Energy Source	Cost/100 kWh block/month	Average Monthly Home at 1,000 kWh/month Member purchases Ten, 100 kWh blocks	Average Monthly Home at 1,300 kWh/month Member purchases Ten, 100 kWh blocks
Wind	\$0.40 per month	\$4.00/month	\$5.20/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 wind energy produced?

Wind energy is produced from large wind turbines located mainly in southern Minnesota, while the solar energy is produced by Great River Energy solar resources throughout the state of Minnesota. In 2015, wind resources accounted for 469 MW of total generation capacity. Fifteen MW of wind generation are dedicated to the Wellspring, wind program. Currently, GRE solar resources account for nearly 2 MW of total generation capacity. Approximately 550 kW are dedicated to the Wellspring, solar program.

Wellspring – Your Personal Opportunity to Support Wind & Solar Power!



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. We are providing Wellspring energy to you through our investments as a generation and transmission cooperative. This means you can support renewable energy and the development of more in our portfolio's future without having to build or buy anything.

Is the Wellspring energy supplied directly to my home or business?

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 Wind and Solar Energy help lessen our reliance on fossil fuels.

Will power in my home or business 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 could never generate all of our electricity needs because the wind doesn't blow, and the sun doesn't shine all the time. Quite often, wind doesn't blow at all during some of the hottest days of summer, when people are using the most electricity. Wind is a good option, and we need to continue to harness its power. Wind-generated electricity is an important part of the overall mix of generation options.

Are wind and solar energy cheaper to produce than other generation options?

Not yet. Some day they may be a cheaper alternative, however, today, they are still more expensive than traditional generation methods. By providing financial incentives, the government has helped increase the growth of wind and solar energy. As technology advances and costs come down, both wind and solar become more and more cost competitive. Another factor is that the windiest areas are often far from the areas that need the power. Therefore, transmission lines need to be built, and this adds to the overall cost of wind energy.

Who can participate?

To qualify for the program you must live Steele-Waseca Cooperative's service territory.

How can I get started?

Contact SWCE to learn more about how to sign up for the Wellspring program.

CONTACT US

Please contact SWCE at 507-451-7340 for more information.