

# Green Power Switch® News

VOLUME V, No. 4

WINTER 2005

## Inside . . .

**Test your energy IQ**

**Lower your energy costs**

**Tax incentives for renewables**

*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 clean, 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).*

*For alternative formats of this document, call 865-632-6824 and allow five working days for processing.*



**Green Power Switch®**

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## Dear Green Power Switch Subscribers:

*We are aware of the challenges facing all of us this winter regarding the rising cost of energy. While Green Power Switch is primarily a renewable energy program, we also want to educate people on how to use energy wisely.*

*To help you take control of your energy bill this winter, we have included in this newsletter some energy-efficiency tips that you can use around your home. These are easy steps that you can take to make sure your home is ready for winter weather and to keep your energy bill as low as possible.*

*As always, we appreciate your support of Green Power Switch, and we are excited about what lies ahead in 2006.*

*With best regards,*

**Jim West, Senior Manager**  
GREEN POWER SWITCH

## Generation update

Generation September 1, 2005 - November 30, 2005

|         |                |
|---------|----------------|
| Solar*  | 114,783 kWh    |
| Wind    | 12,070,766 kWh |
| Methane | 7,125,211 kWh  |

**Total Green Power Switch generation 19,310,760 kWh**

\*For a complete listing of solar sites and their daily output, please visit [www.greenpowerswitch.com](http://www.greenpowerswitch.com).

## Participation update

As of November 30, 2005

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| <b>Total number of green power blocks subscribed:</b>                 | <b>29,710</b> |
| <b>Number of green power blocks subscribed since August 31, 2005:</b> | <b>2,978</b>  |
| <b>Number of residential customers subscribing:</b>                   | <b>8,531</b>  |
| <b>Average number of green power blocks per residential customer:</b> | <b>1.8</b>    |
| <b>Number of business customers subscribing:</b>                      | <b>435</b>    |

For a list of participating business customers and monthly updates of generation figures, please visit [www.greenpowerswitch.com](http://www.greenpowerswitch.com).

We would like to thank all the current participants in the Green Power Switch program. We could not make this program work without you and your commitment. You are making renewable energy a way of life!

**Comments or suggestions?  
Let us hear from you!**

We'd like to know if you're satisfied with our newsletter, and we're interested in what you'd like to read in future issues. So e-mail us your comments today.

Please recycle this newsletter by passing it on to a friend. Thanks for your help and your interest!

—Jim West  
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**Help us save trees**

You can read this newsletter online at [www.greenpowerswitch.com](http://www.greenpowerswitch.com). If you would like us to take you off the mailing list and notify you by e-mail when future issues are posted online, e-mail us at [greenpowerswitch@tva.com](mailto:greenpowerswitch@tva.com).

# Test Your Energy IQ

Heating and cooling your home accounts for about half of your energy use. Ever wonder how the other half is used? Rank these common household appliances according to their energy consumption—highest to lowest. The answers are below.



Find out where the other half of your energy is used by accessing the online comparison tool at [www.energyright.com](http://www.energyright.com). Compare energy use, costs, potential savings, and paybacks for replacing your existing heating and air conditioning system, water heater, or lighting. Learning to save has never been easier!

Answers: 1. Water heater 2. Refrigerator 3. Television 4. Incandescent light bulb 5. Ceiling fan 6. Compact fluorescent light bulb

# Lower your energy costs

## Top 10 No-Cost Steps You Can Take Right Now

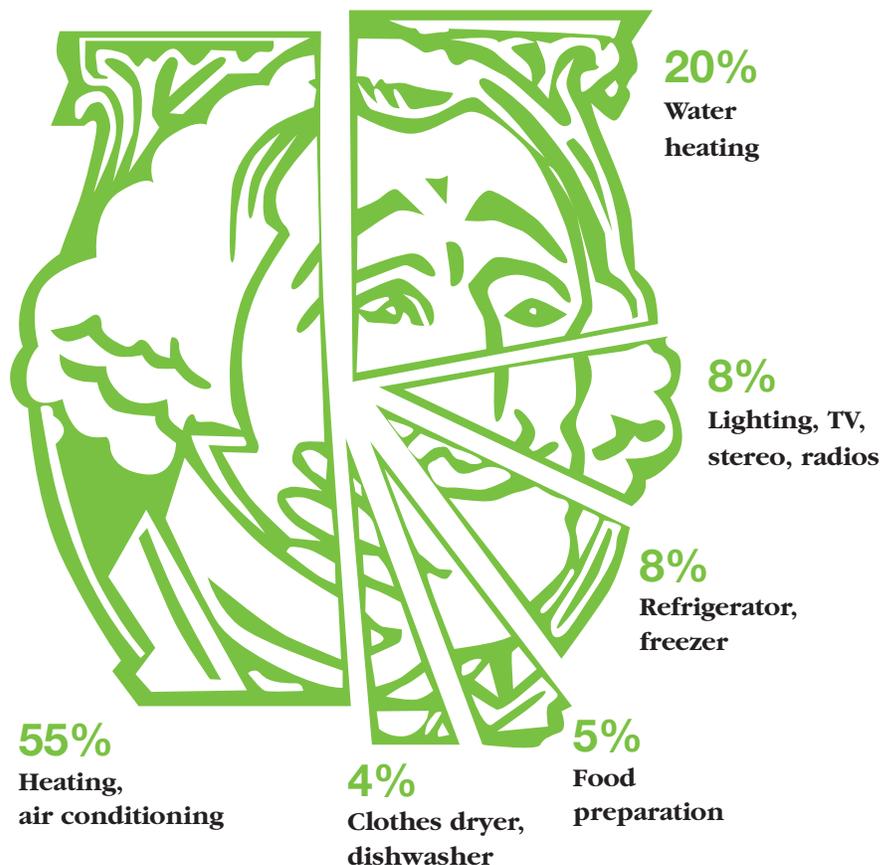
1. Turn down your heating system's thermostat to 68°F during the day. Keep it lower at night and when no one is home for several days.
2. Lower your water heater temperature to 120°F and reduce hot water use by taking shorter showers and using cold water for laundry whenever possible.
3. Turn off lights, televisions, and computers when not in use.
4. Remove and recycle your second refrigerator.
5. Keep curtains open on the south side of the house and closed on the north side during the day.
6. Clean refrigerator coils and set the temperature to 36° to 39°F and the freezer to 0° to 5°F.
7. Make sure the fireplace damper is closed when not in use. Don't send warm air up the chimney.
8. Match the size of your pot or pan to the size of the stove burner and cover it with a lid when cooking.
9. Once a year, drain about one gallon of water from your water heater to remove sediment.
10. Air-dry dishes instead of using the dishwasher's heat drying option.

## Top 10 Low-Cost Steps

1. Caulk and weatherstrip around windows and doors to stop air leaks. Seal any gaps in floors and walls around pipes and electrical wiring.

2. Change filters monthly, or install a "filter whistle" to let you know when to change them.
3. Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents.
4. Repair air leaks and seal and insulate heating system ductwork.
5. Add insulation to your attic, crawl space, and any accessible exterior walls. Add pipe insulation to the first five feet of water pipe coming from your water heater. Install light switch and electrical outlet seals on exterior walls.
6. Install an ENERGY STAR® programmable thermostat appropriate for your type of heating system and set it at 68°F for heating.
7. Look for the ENERGY STAR label when replacing large or small appliances.
8. Wrap your water heater with insulation or install an insulating blanket.
9. Install aerating low-flow faucets and showerheads and repair leaky faucets.
10. Use power strips for home electronics, and turn off power strips when equipment is not in use. TVs and DVD players, etc., still use power when turned off.

## Ever wonder where your energy dollar goes?



# Cut your energy use—and your taxes!

**T**he Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPACT), signed into law last August, can help you offset the costs of installing a renewable energy system in your home or business. Tax credits for solar systems are available that will reduce your federal income taxes for 2006 and 2007 and lower your energy costs for years to come.

Residential solar systems include photovoltaic (PV) and hot water systems. Each type is eligible for a tax credit equal to 30 percent of the installation costs, with a maximum of \$2,000 per system. More solar options are available for small commercial facilities.

## Frequently asked questions

1. Can the credits carry over multiple tax years? *Yes.*
2. What is the annual household maximum credit?

*\$4,000 per taxable year.*

3. Does it matter when I install my system? *Yes. The tax credits apply only to systems placed in service between January 1, 2006, and December 31, 2007.*
4. Is a pool heating system eligible? *No, pools and hot tubs are not eligible for the credit.*
5. Are there certification requirements? *Yes.*
6. Is solar the only renewable technology included? *No, credits also exist for fuel cells.*

In addition to tax credits, you may be eligible to participate in TVA's Generation Partners Program. Contact your local power distributor for availability of the program, or go to [www.gpsgenpartners.com](http://www.gpsgenpartners.com).

EPACT 2005 also includes tax incentives for energy efficiency improvements and fuel-efficient vehicles. For more information, visit [www.energytaxincentives.org](http://www.energytaxincentives.org).

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

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