

# GREEN ELECTRICITY WATCH

Second Report - September 2003

Did you know that Australia's biggest source of greenhouse gas pollution is electricity production - responsible for more greenhouse gases than anything else in Australia - more than cars and more than land clearing?

YOU can help fix the problem by making a switch to a cleaner electricity retailer.

To help you make the switch, Australia's environment groups asked the companies that sell you electricity what they are doing to address climate change. The retailers were surveyed about:

- their support for state and national government policies to reduce greenhouse pollution;
- their energy efficiency programs; and
- the Green Power products they offer.

Thirteen of Australia's fourteen electricity retailers participated in the survey. The leaders showed a strong commitment to responsible environmental policy, together with actual renewable energy and energy efficient practice. They have Green Power products that exceed the accreditation requirements.

Electricity Retailers' Corporate Environmental Performance			Corporate Policy	Energy Services	Green Power	
1	<b>Australian Inland</b> 1300 650 477	NSW	Best overall corporate citizens	✓	+	✗
2	<b>Origin Energy</b> 13 24 63	NSW, VIC, SA		✓	+	✗
3	<b>Integral Energy</b> 131 081	NSW	Above average environmental policy and practice	✓	+	✗
4	<b>AusPower</b> 03 9207 2345	All states (Large customers only*)			+	✗
5	<b>Country Energy</b> 13 23 56	NSW, VIC, ACT		✓	+	✗
6	<b>EnergyAustralia</b> 13 15 35	NSW, VIC		✓	+	✗
7	<b>Ergon Energy</b> 13 10 46	Regional QLD			+	✗
8	<b>ActewAGL Retail</b> 13 14 93	NSW, ACT	Average environmental policy and practice		+	✗
9	<b>AGL</b> 13 12 45	NSW, SA, VIC				✗
10	<b>ENERGEX</b> 13 12 53	Sth East QLD				✗
11	<b>Western Power</b> 13 13 53	WA				✗
12	<b>TXU</b> 13 34 66	VIC, SA	Below average environmental policy and practice		+	✗
13	<b>Power and Water</b> 1800 245 091	NT		✓		
14	<b>Aurora Energy</b> 1300 132 007	TAS	Declined to participate			

\*>4GWh pa

- ✓ Supports the greenhouse gas reduction policies needed to tackle climate change
- ✓ Supports only some of the greenhouse gas reduction policies needed to tackle climate change
- +
- +
- ✗ Offers customers renewable energy choices that are all Green Power accredited
- ✗ Offers clean energy choices, some of which are Green Power accredited but also has non-accredited product

If you live in an area supplied by only one retailer then see [www.electricitywatch.org](http://www.electricitywatch.org) for ways to encourage your retailer to improve their performance.

# GREEN POWER PRODUCTS

## What can YOU do to help fix the problem of climate change? You can make a switch to cleaner power.

Nearly all electricity retailers allow you to purchase electricity from renewable energy sources like wind, solar, hydro and biomass. If you choose Green Power, your retailer is obliged to purchase the amount of energy that you use from renewable energy projects. Your choice will help Australia to move away from dirty, polluting coal.

Most of the products listed below meet the minimum environmental guidelines set by the National Green Power Accreditation Program: the energy comes from approved generators (solar, wind, biomass, hydro and geothermal); no native wood products are used as fuel, and 80% of the electricity is from new (post-1997) renewable generation. The 80% rule is vital as it is new generation which increases demand and investment in alternative energy sources.

For more information about Green Power: **13 62 06** or [www.greenpower.com.au](http://www.greenpower.com.au)

Six green power products exceed the 80% requirement with energy sourced from 100% new generation. You can choose the percentage of your electricity consumption that will be from Green Power - typically from 10 to 100%, with the balance made up from the standard electricity supply. If you want to ensure that all your electricity is from Green Power then you need to ask for 100%.

Green Power Product	Electricity Retailer	Energy Source
<b>Market Leaders 100% new green energy to replace 100% of your electricity use</b>		
Green Earth Solar	Origin Energy: NSW, VIC, SA	100% Photovoltaic
Green Earth Plus	Origin Energy: NSW, VIC, SA	100% Wind
TXU Wind	TXU: VIC, SA	100% Wind
<b>Beyond Compliance 100% new green energy to replace up to 100% of your electricity use</b>		
Green Energy	Australian Inland: NSW	100% Wind and Photovoltaic
Hampton Wind Power	Integral Energy: NSW	100% Wind
Wyuna Water Power	Integral Energy: NSW	100% low impact Hydro
<b>Compliance with Green Power Accreditation</b>		
Earth's Choice	ENERGEX: South East QLD	These products meet the Green Power 80% new generation rule
Country Green	Country Energy: ACT, NSW, VIC	
GreenChoice	ActewAGL: All States	
Natural Power	Western Power: WA	
AGL Green Energy	AGL: NSW, VIC, SA	
Pure Energy	EnergyAustralia: NSW, VIC	
Verdant, Green Events Green Products	AusPower: >4GWh pa	
Clean Energy Plus	Ergon Energy: Regional QLD	
<b>Partial Compliance with Green Power Accreditation</b>		
TXU Planet Plus	TXU: VIC, SA	These products package Green Power approved renewable energy together with energy from old renewable projects
Green Earth Extra	Origin Energy: NSW, VIC, SA	
Clean Energy	Ergon Energy: Regional QLD	
Green Earth	Origin Energy: NSW, VIC, SA	
TXU Planet	TXU: VIC, SA	
<b>NOT Green Power accredited (but exclude native wood products)</b>		
Green Energy	Ergon Energy: Regional QLD	
Green Future	EnergyAustralia: NSW, VIC	
Clean Air Energy	EnergyAustralia: NSW, VIC	

Green Electricity Watch was formed from the cooperation of some of Australia's leading environment groups all of whom are committed to reducing Australia's greenhouse pollution through positive change.

Australian Conservation Foundation  
Greenpeace  
WWF Australia  
Total Environment Centre  
Friends of the Earth  
The Wilderness Society

Nature Conservation Council of NSW  
Conservation Councils of South Australia, Western Australia, SE Region and Canberra, Queensland, Environment Victoria  
Arid Lands, Northern Territory and Tasmania  
Environment Centres  
Climate Action Network of Australia  
Alternative Technology Association