

Preparing for the Papal Climate Encyclical and Visit Help for Parishes that Wish to Purchase Green Power

Beginning with the pontificate of St. John Paul II, the Vatican has pursued green power as a strategy to reduce its environmental impact. Under Pope Benedict XVI, the Vatican completed a major installation of solar power on the Paul VI Audience Hall. Catholic parishes and institutions can emulate the teaching and example of these Popes and Pope Francis by considering green power purchases. In doing so, they can avail themselves of free technical assistance from the Green Power Partnership.

The Green Power Partnership is a free, voluntary program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that assists organizations with procuring electricity generated from renewable resources and promoting their green power leadership.

Benefits for Green Power Partners

EPA's Green Power Partnership is ready to assist your parish by offering the following assistance to organizations that join the Partnership:

Expert Advice

EPA's Green Power Partnership will assist you in identifying the green power products that best meet your organization's goals. EPA is committed to making your green power purchase as easy as possible by:

- Saving you time, effort, and cost by identifying green power products that meet your parish's goals; and
- Providing relevant and timely answers to your questions.

Tools and Resources

EPA offers organizations a variety of tools and information located on the Partnership website (www.epa.gov/greenpower).

EPA's tools and resources can be invaluable by:

- Explaining and taking the guesswork out of your green power purchase;
- Assisting you in promoting the concept of green power internally and externally; and
- Providing you with a means to estimate the environmental benefits of switching to green power.

What is Green Power?

Clean Renewable Energy

Green power is electricity generated from environmentally preferable renewable resources, such as solar, wind, geothermal, low-impact biomass, and low-impact hydro resources.

An Environmental Choice

Conventional electricity use can be one of the most significant environmental impacts associated with your parish's operations. Switching to green power is one of the easiest ways for a parish to reduce its carbon footprint.

Supporting Domestic Energy Supply

Using green power helps to accelerate the development of new, domestic renewable energy sources, while playing an important role in the security of America's energy supply.

Why Use Green Power?

- Using green power is an easy and effective way for your parish to reduce the environmental impact of its operations.
- Long-term green power contracts can provide a hedge against electricity price volatility and help ensure energy price stability.
- Green power use can generate goodwill and respect from parishioners and the broader community.

Credibility and Recognition

Participation in the Green Power Partnership signifies that your parish's green power use meets nationally accepted standards in terms of size, content, and resource base. The Green Power Partnership actively promotes and recognizes Green Power Partners as environmental leaders.



Rooftop solar array in Vatican City. The 2400 photovoltaic panels provide energy for lighting, heating, and air conditioning.

How to Find Out More

It is easy for organizations to join EPA's Green Power Partnership:

- A green power purchase involves little to no complicated logistics.
- Minimal staff time is required to initiate or maintain a green power purchase.
- To join, organizations procure green power at a level that meets or exceeds Partnership requirements (see below), sign a simple voluntary Partnership Agreement (i.e., there is no contract), and agree to update EPA on their green power use annually.

Green Power Purchase Requirements

Your Organization's Baseload If your annual electricity use in kilowatt-hours is...	Green Power Partner Requirements You must, at a minimum, use this much green power	Green Power Leadership Club Requirements You must, at a minimum, use this much green power
$\geq 100,000,001$ kWh	3% of your use	30% of your use
10,000,001–100,000,000 kWh	5% of your use	50% of your use
1,000,001–10,000,000 kWh	10% of your use	100% of your use
$\leq 1,000,000$ kWh	20% of your use	Not Applicable

In addition, the minimum Partner and Leadership Club purchase requirements must be entirely met with power from "new" renewable facilities (i.e., installed within the last 15 years).

For more information on the Green Power Partnership, you can contact the EPA Program Manager, James Critchfield, at (202) 343-9442, or at Critchfield.James@epa.gov.

More details on the Green Power Partnership can also be found at www.epa.gov/greenpower/join.