

EPA's

Green Power Community Challenge



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is hosting its second annual national, year-long campaign to encourage communities coast-to-coast to use renewable energy and fight climate change. The goal of the Green Power Community Challenge is to add 20 new Green Power Communities (GPCs) across the United States. As part of the campaign, Communities are competing to see which one can achieve the highest green power percentage of total electricity use and which one can use the most green power. The winning communities will be declared in September 2012. Last year, 33 communities went beyond the Challenge goal of doubling the collective amount of green power used by GPCs. The winners of the first annual Challenge were Brookeville, MD and Washington, D.C.

Who Can Participate?

EPA invites communities nationwide to participate in the Challenge. To participate, a local city, town, village, county, or tribal government must join EPA's Green Power Partnership and use green power in amounts that meet the program's purchase requirements. The local government then initiates a campaign to encourage local businesses and residents to collectively buy or produce green power on-site in amounts that meet EPA requirements. Once the community's collective green power purchase meets these requirements, the local government submits the GPC Partnership Agreement.

To learn more about becoming a Green Power Community, visit www.epa.gov/greenpower/communities.

How Does The Challenge Work?

Over the span of a year, EPA GPCs track and report their collective green power use and green power percentage of total electricity use. GPCs are ranked according to the two award categories on EPA's website on a quarterly schedule. At the conclusion of the Challenge, the community that has the highest green power percentage and the community that uses the most kilowatt-hours (kWh) of green power will receive national recognition and special attention from EPA.

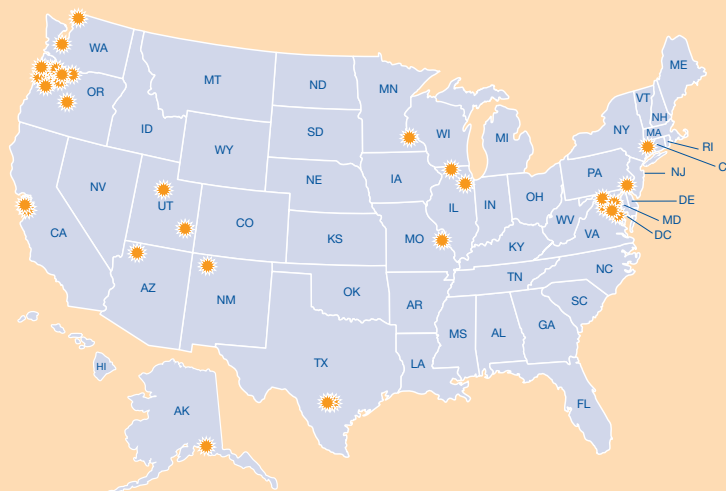
January 2012



By Supporting Green Power:

- Communities can reduce their carbon footprint, increase citizen pride, improve public health, and enhance their community image.
- EPA's Green Power Communities are collectively buying billions of kWh of green power annually, equivalent to the carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from the electricity use of hundreds of thousands of homes.
- Every average American home that uses 100 percent green power helps avoid more than 18,000 pounds of CO₂ emissions.

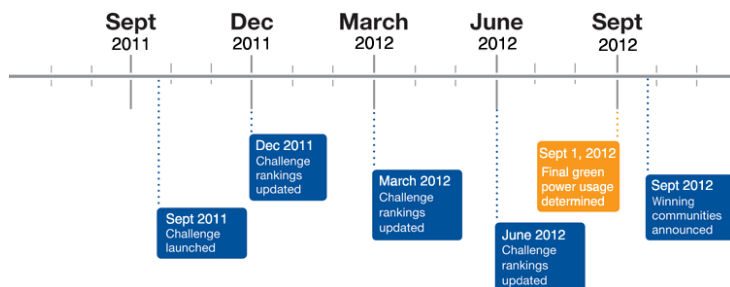
EPA Green Power Communities Across the Country



What Will Happen During the Challenge?

The Challenge began in September 2011. EPA will update the rankings in December 2011, March 2012, and June 2012. Communities will be able to review the standings and make changes to their purchases until September 1, 2012, when the final green power use is determined. Throughout the Challenge, EPA provides technical and outreach assistance to participants to help them increase their green power usage rates.

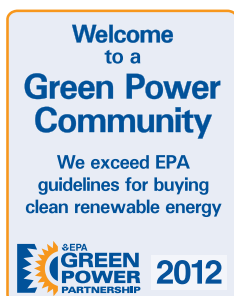
GREEN POWER COMMUNITY CHALLENGE TIMELINE



What Will You Get?

Communities will benefit from outreach and publicity events that take place during the span of the Challenge, including national media attention at the launch and conclusion of the Challenge, limited technical support from EPA, and being highlighted on EPA's website.

Communities will also receive two Green Power Community signs for outdoor display. The winning communities of the Challenge will also be recognized in a national press release from EPA.



Congrats to our 2010-2011 Challenge Winners!

EPA declared the winning communities on Sept. 27, 2011. Washington, D.C. won the Challenge title of using the most green power annually at 772 million kWh. Brookeville, MD led the Challenge competition in achieving the highest green power percentage of total electricity use at 45.7%. We congratulate all 33 GPCs who helped to more than double the collective amount of green power being used.

For More Information

www.epa.gov/greenpower/gpcchallenge
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Launch Your Green Power Campaign Today

Join other leading U.S. communities by launching a green power campaign today. Before signing the GPC Partnership Agreement, communities must be collectively purchasing or producing green power on-site in amounts that meet EPA requirements. The table below outlines the respective EPA Green Power Community purchase requirements based on the community's electricity use. Working with your local utility or power provider, determine the amount of electricity used within the community boundary (city limits). The community must collectively use green power in amounts that meet or exceed the corresponding percentage for the matching baseload electricity use level.

Green Power Community Purchase Requirements	
If your community's annual electricity use in kilowatt-hours is...	Your community must, at a minimum, use this much green power to qualify as a GPC...
≥ 100,000,001 kWh	3% of your use
10,000,001-100,000,000 kWh	5% of your use
1,000,001-10,000,000 kWh	10% of your use
≤ 1,000,000 kWh	20% of your use

About EPA's Green Power Partnership

The Green Power Partnership is a voluntary program that encourages organizations to buy green power as a way to reduce the environmental impacts associated with purchased electricity use. The Partnership currently has nearly 1,300 Partner organizations voluntarily purchasing close to 21 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh) of green power annually. Partners include a wide variety of leading organizations such as Fortune 500® companies, small and medium sized businesses, local, state, tribal, and federal governments, and colleges and universities.

Green power is generated from renewable resources such as solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, biogas, and low-impact hydropower. Green power resources produce electricity with an environmental profile superior to conventional power technologies and produce no net increase to greenhouse gas emissions. Purchases of green power also help accelerate the development of new renewable energy capacity nationwide.