



Clean Water Action News

April—June 2001

North Dakota Newsletter

Green Power *Buying Power from the Wind*

Have you ever wondered how you can make a difference to the environment? There's an easy step you can take that's the equivalent of planting 1.2 acres of trees or taking one car off the road. How? By purchasing wind-generated electricity from your energy provider.

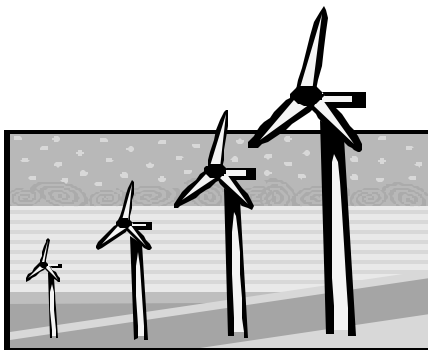
These "green marketing projects" allow individual consumers to purchase electricity generated from clean, renewable sources of energy. Generally these projects are small, in comparison to other electrical generation, but they have a very large impact on the environment.

The largest source of green energy in the Midwest is wind energy. New technology has made it economically feasible to produce wind energy for local consumption. In general, consumers will pay slightly more for the energy, but the payoff for future generations will be tremendous.

While green projects may be smaller, they can replace the need for other polluting forms of electric generation. And they can be a catalyst for larger scale developments by

making consumers (and utilities) more confident in the reliability of wind generated electricity.

Several utilities in North Dakota recently launched green marketing projects, including Cass County Electric, Minnkota Electric, Verendrye Electric, and Ottertail Power. One of the most successful has been Moorhead Public Service's "Capture the Wind" Program. After launching the program in 1998, MPS created enough interest to commit to a second turbine in 2001. MPS Energy Services and Marketing Director Christopher Reed says: "We are very proud of this effort and have had extremely positive feedback from both our customers and other parties interested in the benefits of wind power."



NEWS FLASH: Wind Bills Become Law!

Three bills that Clean Water Action helped write that will help promote more wind development in North Dakota were passed by the ND Legislature and signed into law by Governor Hoeven! The bills which will provide property, sales and income tax incentives for wind facilities, put North Dakota on a level playing field with neighboring states. CWA State Coordinator Scot Kelsh stated "These bills will move wind energy development forward in our state and provide a much needed economic stimulus for rural communities." ND CWA played an instrumental role in building grass roots and legislative support for these bills.

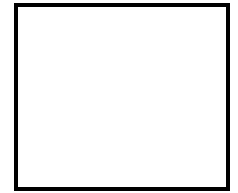
How can you help?

- ◆ If your utilities offers a green power option, sign up for it!
- ◆ If your utility doesn't offer green power yet, write them and ask them to offer a green alternative.

Green power: another way to use your dollars to help the environment!



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Roll your Own Blackout

Clean Water Action is asking our members to take part in a nationwide symbolic protest on June 21 from 7 to 10 pm. We are asking members to create their own blackout that evening. Shut off anything you can—have a candle-light supper—play games. We think this can be a fun event and at the same time send a strong message to our leaders that any comprehensive energy policy needs to include conservation. For more information, contact Nick Schuster at the CWA Fargo Office (701-235-5431).

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Clean Water Action is a national citizen's organization working for clean, safe and affordable water, prevention of health threatening pollution, creation of environmentally safe jobs and businesses, and empowerment of people to make democracy work. Clean Water Action organizes strong grassroots groups, coalitions and campaigns to protect our environment, health, economic well being and community quality of life. This update was prepared for our Pennsylvania members who contribute at the sustaining member level of \$60 or more.

ND Sustaining Newsletter

Arsenic Rules Abandoned

Almost immediately after taking office, the Bush administration repealed a regulation issued by the EPA to lower the amount of arsenic allowed in our drinking water.

The old standard of 50 ppb (parts per billion) was set in 1942 and does not protect public health. The new standard of 10 ppb was set to go into effect by 2006. Arsenic, a known cause of cancer and other ailments, is a health risk especially to children and the elderly.

The Bush administration action on arsenic places millions of people at risk. A 1999 review by the National Academy of Sciences said that the old standard did not protect public health and should be reduced as soon as possible. While CWA supported an even lower standard of 3 ppb, we believe

that the 10 ppb standard needs to be reinstated immediately to protect the health and well being of all citizens.



There are several bills in the US House and Senate that would institute the 10 ppb limit immediately. We need your help to get them passed.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:
Write to Senators Dorgan and Conrad, and Representative Pomeroy and let them know that we demand a high standard for our drinking water.

Urge them to support bills that would lower the limit for arsenic in drinking water to no more than 10 ppb immediately! Their address is:

- ◆ US Senate, Washington DC 20510, or
- ◆ House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.