

## Energy Conservation: It Makes a Difference

The energy used in the average home can be responsible for more than twice the greenhouse gas emissions of the average car. When you use less energy at home, you reduce greenhouse gas emissions from power plants and help protect our environment from the risks of global climate change.

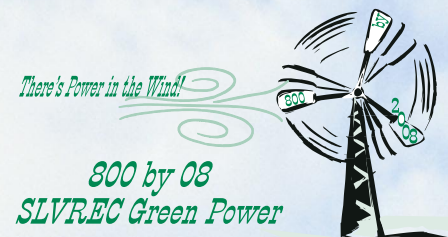
FACT: If every American home changed out five high-use light fixtures or the bulbs in them with compact fluorescent lamps (CFL's), each family would save about \$60 every year in energy costs, and together we'd save about \$6.5 billion each year in energy costs and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions from more than 8 million cars. Every CFL installed to replace an incandescent bulb can prevent more than 450 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions.

FACT: The average American home has roughly two TVs, a VCR, a DVD player and three telephones. If these items were replaced with energy-efficient models as rated by the government's ENERGY program, it would save over 25 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions, the equivalent to taking over 3 million cars off the road.

FACT: If just one in ten homes used efficient ENERGY STAR qualified appliances, the change would be like planting 1.7 million new acres of trees.

**Simple actions can  
make a difference!**

source: www.energystar.gov



SLVREC's goal: 800 green power program participants by 2008.  
Call today to sign up for green power!

## Green Power Program

To support the development of new renewable energy resources, SLVREC has set a goal of having 800 members purchasing green power by 2008. Members may buy green power in 100 kilowatt-hour (kWh) blocks for an additional fee of \$1.25 per block per month. This money goes directly to Tri-State Generation & Transmission, SLVREC's power provider.

Tri-State purchases wind generation from Platte River Power Authority and Basin Electric Power Cooperative. Tri-State also contracts green power purchases with small hydroelectric projects and biomass generation plants in the region. The balance of the green power Tri-State provides for participating members is purchased on the open market through a system of "green tags."

Power produced by green sources intermingles with power produced by conventional generation sources in the transmission grid. Although the "exact" power a green power customer receives may not have been produced from a renewable resource, the amount of renewable power that a customer requests enters the grid for use somewhere. Green power purchases offset other conventionally-generated power purchases.

To find out more about the program or to sign up for green power blocks and help SLVREC realize the 800 by 08 goal, call 719- 852-3538 or 800-332-7634.

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# Our Energy Future

## Conservation and Renewable Energy



San  
Luis  
Valley

A Powerful  
Connection!

Rural Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy<sup>SM</sup> Cooperative

## Conservation

Saving energy makes good sense in more ways than one. First, using less energy means that you will pay less on your utility bills. Additionally, conservation prevents pollution. By using less energy you help prevent global warming and promote cleaner air.

San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative promotes energy conservation. Over the next several months, the cooperative will be working with an engineering firm to help develop a comprehensive conservation program. Currently, the cooperative offers several programs to promote conservation.

**CFLs.** The cooperative offers energy-efficient compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) for sale at a competitive price. CFLs can provide the same amount of light as incandescent light bulbs for a fraction of the energy use. The savings can be significant. The cooperative has worked with area youth to offer CFLs for fund-raisers. More programs, including special savings programs, are in the works.

**EEC Program.** The cooperative's energy efficiency credit program gives cash rebates to SLVREC members who purchase electric water heaters for residential or commercial use and/or premium



efficiency electric motors for agricultural or industrial use. The program saves money two ways. First, you get a rebate after you purchase and install the approved water heater or electric motor. Second, you save on your electric bill year round by using an energy-efficient device instead of the less efficient device that was replaced.

The Department of Energy estimates that in this decade, the switch to premium efficiency motors alone could save 5,800 gigawatts of electricity and prevent the release of nearly 80 million metric tons of carbon emissions—the equivalent of keeping 16 million cars off the road. Nationwide, electric motors account for roughly 50 percent of all U.S. energy use and two-thirds of all industrial energy use.

**Energy Audits.** The cooperative's energy services specialist can help you pinpoint energy problems associated with inconsistent high bills.

For many households, a key high energy culprit is their refrigerator. In most households, the refrigerator is the single biggest energy consuming kitchen appliance. Replacing a refrigerator bought in 1990 with a new ENERGY STAR qualified model would save enough energy to light the average household for nearly four months.

## Renewable Energy

Renewable energy will help solve many of our nation's energy concerns. Members can participate in the development of green power resources by purchasing blocks of green power from the cooperative (see back for more information.)

Many groups are taking an active interest in developing renewable energy resources within the San Luis Valley. Biodiesel, wind power and solar power are all being considered.

SLVREC is closely monitoring developments in

this area. The cooperative fully supports renewable energy development that provides cost-effective power to the Valley.

SLVREC is working with Tri-State Generation & Transmission, their power provider to develop new transmission lines to and from the Valley. Transmission lines must be built first, before large-scale renewable development can take place.

On a smaller scale, SLVREC has developed a net metering policy that provides members



an opportunity to develop micro renewable energy facilities at their home or business.

For both large and micro facilities, solar power appears to be the renewable of choice for electric generation in the Valley. Abundant sunshine may be the Valley's greatest renewable resource.

For more information about renewable energy development, contact San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative.