

Planetary Wellbeing

Cut Pollution & Toxicity

- Cleaning & Laundry
- Green Carwash
- Low-Toxin Manufacturing
- Natural Garden & Lawn Care
- Organic & Sustainable Agriculture
- Pest Control
- Plant-Based Eating
- **Zero Emissions**
- Zero Toxin Parenting

Ensure Animal Wellness

Guard Water Resources

Ocean Awareness

Protect Biodiversity

Reduce Resource Consumption

Save Energy & Climate

Mani Madness



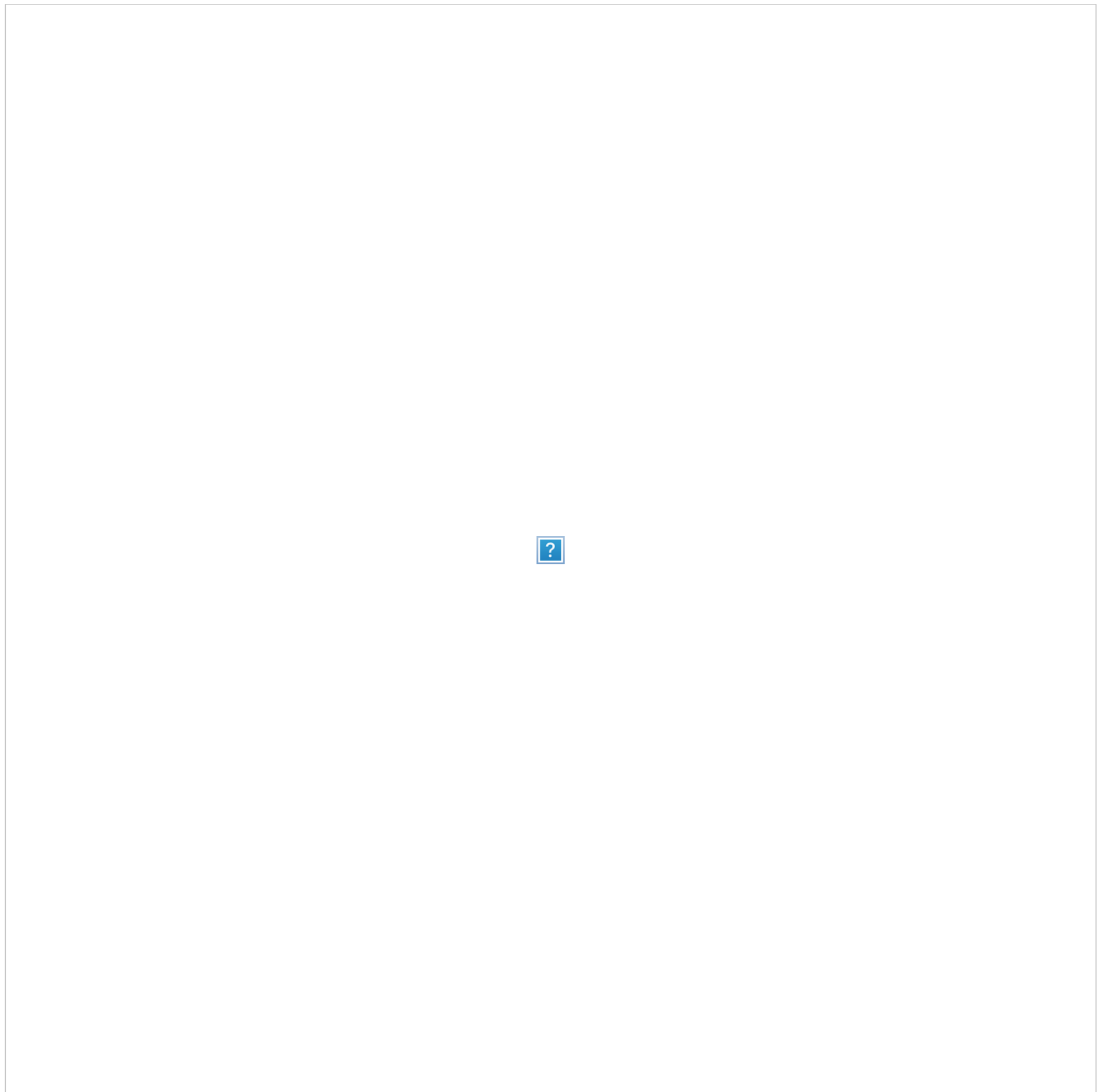
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Make the Switch to Green Power

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While the term “green power” is often used to refer to more eco-friendly forms of energy, the US government considers green power options to be those **consumers and businesses** can choose through their utilities that support electricity generated by certain renewables (i.e. self-replenishing on a human time scale) – specifically solar, wind, geothermal, biogas, biomass, and low-impact hydroelectric sources. Not only do traditional fossil fuels suffer wild fluctuations in supply and price, they contribute significantly to global warming. Yet they are unfairly subsidized compared to renewables, putting fossil fuels at an advantage over green power.^[i] By using our Hearts guide to help choose green electricity, you’ll not only tip the economic balance more in favor of renewables, you’ll shrink your carbon footprint, too.



Quick Guide: Comparing Green Power and Fossil Fuels

- **270% higher cost for solar than coal energy:** Currently, green power costs more per megawatt-hour (MWh) than fossil fuels: coal costs \$64, nuclear \$73, wind \$91, and solar \$175.^[ii]
- **20-25% reduction in solar costs with doubled production:** As demand for renewables increases, the price for green power will decrease because economies of scale can be realized.^[iii]
- **\$72 billion in subsidies for fossil fuels (2002-2008):** During that period, green power received only \$29 billion in subsidies.^[iv]
- **1,135 to 2,988 pounds of CO2 per MWh for fossil fuel energies:** Per megawatt-hour of electricity, natural gas releases 1,135 pounds of CO2; coal 2,249 pounds; oil 1,672 pounds; and municipal solid waste 2,988 pounds. Renewables release negligible CO2 by contrast.^[v]

Take Action! Make the Switch to Renewable Energy through Green Power

1. **Calculate your carbon footprint:** Use an online tool like that from [Terrapass](#) or [Carbonfund.org](#) to calculate your own carbon footprint so that you have an idea what kind of impact your lifestyle has on the earth’s climate. These calculators give you ideas for how to shrink your carbon footprint and provide options for purchasing carbon offsets. Tools also exist to **monitor your energy use** in real-time so that you can actively work to reduce your carbon footprint such as [OPower](#) available through your utility provider.
2. **Check to see if your utility provider offers green pricing:** **Green pricing** allows customers to support renewable energy technology by paying a small premium on their monthly utility bill to cover the increased cost. Check this chart from the [US Department of Energy](#) to see if your utility provider offers green pricing, and find out how to enroll. See how your state compares to others in terms of **green power sales**.
3. **Find out if green power marketing exists in your state:** **Green power marketing** refers to the sale of green power in the competitive marketplace (i.e. multiple suppliers and service offerings exist). Check this chart from the [US Department of Energy](#) to see if a green power market exists in your state, and find instructions for enrollment. Currently, over 100 green

power options are offered nationwide.

4. **Choose a Green-e Certified electricity provider:** When choosing an electricity provider, look for one that is **Green-e Certified**. The Green-e logo signifies that at least half of the electricity provided is generated from renewable energy sources. This certification is voluntary and is managed by the Center for Resource Solutions, a non-profit.
5. **Ask for more renewables:** Email your utility provider asking how your electricity is currently sourced and requesting that they transition to a more sustainable energy matrix. The Union of Concerned Scientists provides a **list of utility companies** with contact information and sample letters. Also write to your Congressional representatives telling them that you support renewable energy.



Dig Deeper: Why Renewables are Remarkable

- Explore your energy options with the **Energy Guide** from Aclara Technologies.
- Read reports on renewable energy technology from **Electric Power Research Institute**, the **Department of Energy**, or this **NRDC guide**.
- Check out these infographic on **how Americans rate their utility companies**, and **wind energy in America**.

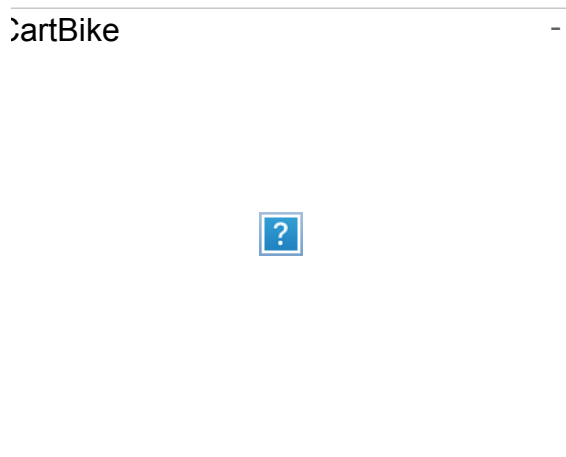
Images by Idaho **National Laboratory** and **Green-e**

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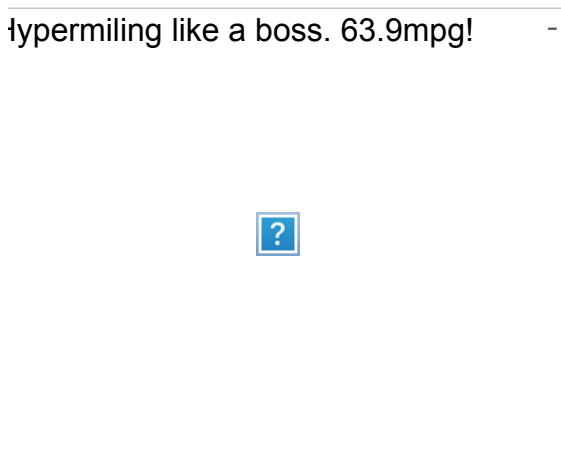
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