

COMMUNITY CHOICE



WE HAVE A PROBLEM:

- Fossil-fueled global warming threatens environmental stability.
- Energy corporations like Enron hold consumers hostage and create price spikes and blackouts.
- Consumers' desire for clean, cost-effective power is unmet.
- The Bush administration and Congress are ignoring the crisis.

“Community Choice aggregation is a roadmap to cheaper and cleaner power for our communities.”

Carole Migden, California state senator and author of the state's Community Choice Law.

SOLUTION:

- Community Choice offers clean and safe renewable energy.
- It places democracy at the center of energy policy.
- It bypasses the oil-friendly federal bureaucracy.
- It can save customers money, too.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Tell state lawmakers and municipal officials you want Community Choice.
- Insist your Community Choice power comes from renewable energy.
- Opt into Community Choice energy if it is offered in your community.
- Vote for state lawmakers advocating clean energy.

TAKE ACTION FOR A CLEANER ENVIRONMENT

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The Issue

The U.S. urgently needs a new energy policy. As if global warming and America's dependence on unstable, foreign oil and gas weren't bad enough, consumers have also been held hostage by energy corporations like Enron wringing them for every cent by creating power crises with blackouts and price spikes. Meanwhile, residential consumers have little or no say in deciding how their electricity is generated or whether energy sources are clean and renewable.

The Solution

Community Choice provides local, sustainable energy alternatives, such as wind and solar power, at prices that match or beat the traditional power industry. In Ohio, for example, more than 600,000 Consumer Choice customers now pay around 7 percent less for their electricity¹ while cutting global warming pollution by nearly 10,000 tons each year. By allowing municipal authorities to buy energy in bulk from electricity companies, Community Choice provides a greater responsiveness to consumer preferences for clean, green energy. A level playing field is finally being established for modern solar and wind power to compete with out-of-date heavy polluters such as the nuclear, oil and coal industries.

The Opposition

The energy corporations and their close friends in the White House and Congress pretend there is no energy or global warming crisis. In 2001, when Californians were falling victim to Enron's stage-managed power crisis, President Bush refused to intervene – unsurprising given the amount of money lavished by the energy giants on politicians. Former Enron CEO Ken Lay, for example, personally donated \$100,000 to George W. Bush's two gubernatorial campaigns in Texas back in the 1990s.² In the first half of 2001, the year that Enron finally collapsed under the weight of its own fraudulent accounting, the corporation spent more than \$2 million on congressional lobbying.³

What You Can Do

SEND A MESSAGE: Tell your state governor and lawmakers you want Community Choice. Insist that your local government offer renewable energy.

AVOID: Electricity generated from nuclear, oil, coal and gas plants. Instead, if you have the option, choose clean, cost-effective renewable energy.

LOOK FOR: If you are offered Community Choice, opt in and insist to local legislators that renewable energy is included.

GET INVOLVED: Either on campus or online at:
www.greenpeaceusa.org/getinvolved

Greenpeace Victories



- ♦ In 2005, the California State University, the largest university system in the world, unveils a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 17 percent by 2010.
- ♦ In 2003, the University of California announces it will receive 20 percent of its energy from renewable sources by 2017.
- ♦ In 2002, Greenpeace U.S. files a landmark lawsuit against two federal agencies for funding fossil fuel projects without considering the climate change impacts.
- ♦ In 1997, the Kyoto Protocol, the only international treaty to curb greenhouse gases, is drafted and has now been ratified by almost all countries other than the U.S.

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www.greenpeaceusa.org

1. Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council: <http://www.nopecinfo.org/gmec-faq.html> 2. The Center for Responsive Politics: http://www.opensecrets.org/news/enron/enron_other.asp
3. The Center for Responsive Politics: http://www.opensecrets.org/alerts/v6/alertv6_37.asp