



Frequently Asked Questions

How much does it cost?

To estimate your monthly expense, total the kilowatt hours you used in the last 12 months (your Jan-Dec kWh appear on your electric bill). Divide that total by 12 to determine your average monthly kWh. Multiply that number by .024 for New England GreenStart (a mix of local renewables), and by .038 for New England Wind (100% local wind). And remember, your payments are tax-deductible!

The average household in MA uses 500 kWh per month. This household would pay either \$12 or \$19 per month extra, depending upon the plan they choose.

How do I make the switch?

Go to the Mothers Out Front website: www.mothersoutfront.org, click on the right side tab "Switch to Clean Energy" and click on the green "Get Started" button. Make sure you have your utility bill or account number with you.

Choose from two sources of green power:

1. New England GreenStart (a mix of 100% local green energy, including wind, solar, anaerobic digester gas and low-impact hydro) costs 2.4 cents/kwh in addition to regular electric charges.
2. New England Wind (100% Massachusetts wind power) costs 3.8 cents/kwh in addition to regular electric charges.

Either option will enable Mass Energy to directly match your monthly kilowatt-hours to support clean, local renewable energy in the grid. The charge for the green power will appear on your regular monthly utility bill or right along with it.

Are my Mass Energy payments tax-deductible?

YES! Because Mass Energy is a nonprofit organization, additional green power charges are considered **tax-deductible** charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. Mass Energy will provide you with an annual report of the amount they may deduct.

Can I switch on the Mass Energy website?

Yes, but there are some important differences. If you switch on the Mothers Out Front website your choice will be counted along with all of us. You will be adding your voice to thousands of others. Together, we will be increasing demand for green energy AND making a powerful statement to our elected officials. Plus, Mass Energy will make a donation on your behalf to Mothers Out Front.

Where does my electricity come from now?

All New England states share one single network of power lines, called the electric grid. Over 80% of our electricity from that grid is generated from fossil fuels and nuclear power resources. Much of the remainder comes from various unidentified types of power imported from other regions and sources not environmentally friendly. Less than 10% comes from renewable sources such as trash to energy, hydro projects, bio mass and wind.

Will I have to install solar panels on my roof?

No, your home's electricity will still come through your existing power lines, it's just that you'll be contributing to the development of new renewable infrastructure in New England every time you pay your electric bill.

What if there's a storm, who will repair my electric lines?

Your regular utility company will still maintain your electric lines, same as they do now.

Why Support Mass Energy:

Participation in Mass Energy's renewable program enables it to sign long-term power purchase contracts with renewable energy projects in New England. The more members that sign up, the more contracts can be signed and the more renewable energy will go into the grid. Signing up for New England Wind or New England GreenStart is like voting with your electric bill for more renewables.

Please note that the electricity produced by the renewable energy resources flows into the New England power grid. All electricity consumers draw from this 'pool' of power, which is a mix of all the resources in New England. Currently, the power grid uses less than 10% renewable sources. By choosing to support renewable electricity, you are increasing the percentage of clean energy powering the grid. As more homeowners switch to renewable energy, more clean energy will be used to power customers' homes.

As more people get on board, more wind or water businesses will be created or existing ones enlarged to meet the demands. That would be a good thing!

As the demand increases and more businesses creating renewable sources are developed, the cost will decrease.