

Switch to Clean Electricity FAQ

What is Mothers Out Front?

We are mothers, grandmothers and allies concerned about the effects of climate change on our children's future. Our goal is for Massachusetts to commit to meeting new energy needs with only clean and renewable energy, and drawing the line against new fossil fuel infrastructure. Hundreds of us are choosing clean electricity for our homes – and asking the governor to do the same for our state.

What is Mass Energy Consumers Alliance?

Mass Energy is a nonprofit offering consumers a choice of electricity resources that are better for the environment than fossil fuels. Their *New England GreenStartSM* and *New England Wind* programs provide electricity from renewable sources in New England.

What does it mean to “Switch to Clean Electricity?”

Your utility company won't change; your electricity will still come through the same power lines, from the same grid. You'll pay a few cents more for every kilowatt hour you use, and Mass Energy will deliver electricity from clean, renewable sources to the grid on your behalf. This displaces the need for fossil fuels, so we burn less overall.

Why switch with Mothers Out Front?

By switching to clean electricity with Mothers Out Front you will be joining your voice to hundreds of others, forming a new and powerful constituency deeply invested in a safe and healthy clean-energy future for our children and grandchildren. Together we will increase demand for renewable energy and make a loud-and-clear political statement to our elected officials.

Why Support Mass Energy?

Your support enables Mass Energy to sign long-term power purchase contracts with renewable energy projects in New England. More members mean more contracts and more renewable energy added to the grid.

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 supporting renewable electricity, you are increasing the percentage of clean energy powering the grid. As more people switch, more clean energy will be used and more businesses creating renewable sources will be developed or enlarged to meet the demand. As demand increases, the cost will decrease.

How much does it cost?

It costs about 3 or 4 cents more per kilowatt hour than your regular electricity charges. The average household in MA (using about 600 kWh/month) will pay approximately \$14 or \$23 per month, depending on the green power option you choose. This monthly payment is in addition to your regular electric bill. See below for details.

Are my payments tax-deductible?

Yes, federally tax-deductible if you itemize charitable contributions. Each January, Mass Energy will send you a year-end statement for tax purposes.

Do I have to sign a contract for a specified length of time?

No, you can opt out at any time.

Will Mass Energy's charges appear on my electric bill?

It depends. For example, if you're a National Grid or WMECO customer, yes. If you're an NSTAR customer, charges will automatically appear each month on your credit card or bank statement.

How much of my electricity comes from green sources now?

Currently over 80% of New England's electric grid is generated from fossil fuels and nuclear power; less than 10% comes from renewables.

But I already have NSTAR Green.

1) NSTAR Green costs more than Mass Energy. 2) Supporting Mass Energy helps build new clean energy infrastructure at the community level in New England. Note: Enrollment with Mass Energy does not automatically cancel NSTAR Green; cancel to avoid being charged for both plans.

What if I live in an apartment and don't pay for my electricity?

You can still participate in our campaign with Mass Energy's *New England Wind Friends (NEWF)* plan. Monthly payments will be based on your estimated electricity usage.

My city has its own electric company. Can I still participate?

Yes. You can join our campaign and support the growth of clean energy in Massachusetts by enrolling in Mass Energy's *New England Wind Friends (NEWF)* plan.

I've already done an energy audit on my house, replaced my windows, installed solar panels, etc. So I'm doing my part.

Individual actions are important but switching to clean electricity with Mothers Out Front turns a single, one-time choice into a powerful political statement with the potential to bring about systemic change.

Will I have to buy special equipment or install solar panels on my roof?

No. It's as easy as signing up once – then you have made the switch.

What happens if my power lines get knocked down in a storm?

Your current utility company will continue to maintain your power lines.

I'm ready to switch! How do I do it?

Go to mothersoutfront.org and click MAKE THE SWITCH. Or call Mass Energy at 800-287-3950, ext. 5. Have your electric utility account number available – and tell them you're switching with Mothers Out Front. Mass Energy will donate up to \$50 on your behalf to support our work.

Choose your plan:

Mass Energy's *New England GreenStart*:

A mix of renewables, including wind, solar, digester gas and low-impact hydro.

Cost: 2.4 cents per kilowatt hour separate from and in addition to your regular electric bill charges.

Mass Energy's *New England Wind*:

100% wind power from Massachusetts wind turbines.

Cost: 3.8 cents per kilowatt hour separate from and in addition to your regular electric bill charges.

Mass Energy's *New England Wind Friends (NEWF)*:

If you live in an apartment and don't pay your own electric bill, or if your town has its own electric company, this plan may be for you. You must follow a specific link to sign up with *NEWF*; please contact Mass Energy if you need more information.

Contact Mass Energy for more information:

(800) 287-3950, ext. 5

greenreply@massenergy.org

www.massenergy.org/about/contact

www.massenergy.org/motherslearnmore