

Dispatch

Roseville Establishes Renewable Energy Policy

While the energy crisis fades to a memory, demand for energy continues to grow at an alarming rate in the United States. Since 1985, energy consumption has grown by 25 percent in the nation, and is expected to rise another 43 percent by 2025. To meet the demand without depleting our natural resources, we need to find ways to use renewable energy—solar, wind, geothermal, fuel cell, and other green energy sources.

Promoting green energy

The California legislature recently passed a bill designed to encourage development of renewable energy technology and resources. The new law requires investor-owned utilities such as PG&E to increase their use of renewable energy by 1 percent each year until at least 20 percent of their energy portfolio comes from renewable sources—no later than 2017.

As a municipal utility, Roseville Electric is exempted from the 20 percent

standard, but is required to establish some sort of renewable portfolio standard (RPS). Like all municipal utilities, Roseville Electric is striving to keep rates down and reliability high, while at the same time buying as much green power as possible. It's a delicate balance, and one that is necessary to meet customer needs responsibly. After weighing the options, the Roseville City Council adopted an RPS that includes 20 percent renewable levels. Unlike the state criteria however, Roseville will include power generated from large hydroelectric dams in that figure. The Roseville RPS also calls for an increase by 5 megawatts over the next 5 years—with 1 megawatt to be sited here in Roseville.

Energy Park moves closer to reality

The city council also gave the go-ahead for a preliminary feasibility study on the idea of an energy park in Roseville. The new park would include a high-efficiency natural gas power plant, a renewable power generation facility,

and a new technology and conservation center (energy and water).

Vote for green energy

Roseville Electric customers already have the choice of buying green energy. The RE-Green™50 and RE-Green™ 100 programs provide customers options to receive 50 percent or 100 percent of their power needs from renewable sources. The programs cost an additional half-cent and full cent per kilowatt-hour extra (about \$2.50 or \$5.00 per month for the average customer) to cover the additional cost of renewable energy. Choosing to participate is one of the ways customers can let us know they feel green energy is important.

In addition, Roseville Electric offers the RE-New™ Green Fund. Customer contributions to this fund will be matched, dollar-for-dollar, with Roseville Electric Public Benefits Funds to build new renewable energy systems right here in Roseville.

It is hoped that the new requirements to buy from renewable energy producers will create greater market demand, which in return will foster development of technology and sources of renewable energy. One day, maybe customers won't have to choose green energy because every kilowatt will be green.



Conceptual illustration of the Roseville Energy Park.

www.RosevilleElectric.org

National Electric Safety Month is a good time to remind ourselves that electricity should not be taken for granted, and we should always be respectful with its use. I want to assure you that as your city electric utility, we go to great lengths to do everything possible to distribute electricity in the safest possible way.

In addition to using the most advanced systems available, we use sophisticated monitoring equipment and perform continuous maintenance on our distribution system to ensure everything works as it should. We also make sure there is adequate clearance around pad mounted transformers for our underground system and offer free tree trimming to keep power lines free of branches, promoting safety and reliability in our overhead distribution. Roseville Electric also provides free interactive safety demonstrations that are available to civic and youth groups and can be easily scheduled by calling us at 79-POWER.

But we're only part of the equation; much of your family's protection depends on you. This month, take part of your weekend to go through your home, garage and yard and check to make sure you're following the rules that ensure safe operation of all electrical equipment. For information regarding home and workplace electrical safety, visit us on the web at www.RosevilleElectric.org.

We'll continue to work hard on maintaining one of the lowest rates in California and the highest level of service reliability in the nation. All we ask is that you play it safe around electricity.

Tom Habashi, Utility Director

Roseville Electric Receives State Community Service Award

For the second year in a row, the California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA) named Roseville Electric as a recipient of its Community Service Award. The award recognizes Roseville's 2002 Community Outreach Project—a joint effort of Roseville Electric, Roseville Fire Department, Roseville Environmental Utilities, and the Roseville Volunteer Center.



City of Roseville Training and Volunteer Manager Lisa Achen and Roseville Electric Utility Director Tom Habashi receive the 2003 Community Service Award from CMUA President Larry Gardner (r).

During the spring of 2002, the four city departments teamed up in two of Roseville's oldest neighborhoods. Firefighters inspected smoke detectors and installed new ones where needed. Community volunteers distributed energy-efficiency and water-conservation kits and information packets. Local church members posted neighborhood signs, while area students helped serve lunch, clean up trash, and assemble the conservation kits. The innovative event was chosen for the award based on its originality and creativity, how well it promoted efficient use of resources, and its benefit to the greater community.

► For information on Roseville's Community Outreach Project, call Roseville Training and Volunteer Manager Lisa Achen at 774-5209.

It's time
to plan for

Easy Ways to

If you're looking for a few simple steps to control your energy costs this summer, consider these—

Keep your thermostat above 78°. On days of 100° or higher, set the thermostat above 84°.

Check air conditioning filters monthly and change or clean if needed. Also, contact a qualified contractor for a maintenance inspection if one has not been conducted within two years.

Seal your house—weather stripping and caulking keep the heat out and cold air in.

Keep blinds, curtains, and shades pulled to keep the sun's rays out.

Perform a free online Energy and Water Audit to save energy, water and money.

Use washing machines, dishwashers, pool filters and cleaning equipment, and other large appliances before noon or after 8:00 p.m. That lowers the peak demand and helps Roseville avoid buying extra energy at higher prices.

ELECTRIC DISPATCH is published for Roseville's residents by Roseville Electric. ©2003. Comments and suggestions are welcome—please send to the attention of Ray Sansom.

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