



MAINE GREEN POWER CONNECTION
GENERATING CHOICE

A project of the Maine Energy
Investment Corporation

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Coal-fired power plant in Dunkirk, NY, producing electricity—and pollution—on the shores of Lake Erie in June 2002. Coal-fired plants produce 9-10% of Maine's electricity today.

Photo by Erika Morgan

*I will prevent disease
whenever I can,
for prevention is
preferable to cure.*

*Taken from the Hippocratic Oath,
Modern Version, written in 1964
by Louis Lasagna, Academic Dean of the
School of Medicine at Tufts University,
and used in many medical schools today.*



IMPROVE THE AIR YOU BREATHE: BUY GREEN POWER

Green electricity, pink lungs

Maine has an air quality challenge:

- Over 120,000 adults and 28,000 children in Maine suffer from asthma—a condition exacerbated by ozone.¹
- Ozone results from pollutants emitted by cars and other fossil fuel combustion sources, notably the generation of electricity from fossil-fuel fired plants.²
- The summer of 2002 brought Maine's worst air quality since 1988.³
- 40% of Maine's current electricity supply comes from fossil fuels.⁴

Green power helps. Green electricity is a way to prevent disease by preventing pollution at its source. It is not necessary to pollute in order to generate electricity. Generating electricity from hydropower dams, wind farms and solar panels results in cleaner air, which leads to better health outcomes. In short, green electricity means pink lungs.

What is green power? Green Power is electricity generated from cleaner renewable resources instead of the standard non-renewable polluting resources such as coal and oil. The sun, wind, and water are renewable resources that can generate electric power without the polluting by-products such as carbon dioxide, sulfur oxides, and nitrogen oxides that characterize standard electricity generators. Some other green electricity sources are renewable and utilize otherwise neglected waste products (such as wood by-products from the timber industry and municipal trash). These sources produce some emissions, but at much lower concentrations than the standard sources.



"We selected green power because we're a health care facility and we believe in making purchasing decisions that will improve the health of Maine citizens and be beneficial to Maine's environment."

~ Clark James, Facilities Specialist, York Hospital

Help make Maine a healthier place to live, work and play. Maine changed the rules of its electricity market in 2000. In the new competitive electricity market, every time you pay your electric bill, you decide how electricity is generated.

How much is clean air worth to you?

You now have the power to choose.



Green power provides you with many ways to help reduce Maine's air quality problems.

- **Through green supply** – In Maine, customers of all sizes can now choose to have their electricity provided by in-state renewable energy facilities such as small hydro dams and wood-fired electricity facilities. See the Maine Green Power Menu for more details.
- **Through green tags** – Green tags are certificates that allow you to purchase the environmental benefits of renewable electricity generators, no matter where those generators are located. Through green tags you can support new wind turbines, solar electricity and new renewable energy facilities throughout New England and the U.S.

A healthier Maine. Help us get there. Wouldn't you spend a quarter a day to save a child from a lifetime of asthma? Clean, environmentally beneficial green electricity is the proverbial "ounce of prevention." And going green is simple. There are product and payment options to fit within almost any budget. Every green power purchase helps improve our air and environment.

There are several ways to take action today:

- **Learn more.** Visit www.MaineGreenPower.org, Maine Green Power Connection's website. Explore background on renewable energy and details on the green electricity products available now in Maine.
- **Invite a speaker.** If you work in a hospital, clinic, or belong to a professional association, MeGPC will provide a presentation on how the available green power options might apply to you and your colleagues. Please call us (207) 729-9665.
- **Sign up for green power.** Review MeGPC's Maine Green Power Menu. Compare all current green power products. Through the Menu, you can purchase the green electricity product(s) that make the most sense to you.



Edward Miller, CEO, American Lung Association of Maine, in front of their Augusta office powered by green electricity.

Photo by Jane Anne McNeish

Are you a fossil fuel addict?

By kicking their fossil fuel habit, these Maine health care providers are making a difference in Maine's air quality:

- **American Lung Association of Maine** has bought green supply for their headquarters facilities in Augusta.
- **York Hospital** has purchased 4.5 million kWh per year of renewable energy for their facilities in York.
- **The Center for Health & Healing** in Rockland has switched to green supply.
- **Medical Rehabilitation Associates** has bought green supply for their Brunswick clinic.
- **Fernow Medical Associates** has switched their Dover-Foxcroft clinic to green supply.



"Preventing disease and promoting health is the foundation of public health. Green power is an inexpensive and immediate way to improve our air quality. As a founding member of the Green Power Connection, we call on all of our colleagues in public health and health care organizations to sign on."

~ Edward Miller, CEO of the American Lung Association of Maine

Start today to make a difference in Maine's air quality.

¹ The New England Asthma Regional Council, and discussion with Norm Anderson, American Lung Association of Maine.
² "Energy for Maine's Future", NRCM, page 8. The 40-year old Brayton Point Power Plant in Somerset, MA, is "the largest source of air pollution in New England". It "burns nearly 8,000 tons of coal every day, sending pollution" downwind to New Hampshire and Maine." page 4.
³ "Energy for Maine's Future", Natural Resources Council of Maine, fall 2002, page 1.
⁴ Maine Renewable Energy green supply disclosure label.