



## Northwesterners Shell Out Green for Green Power

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OLYMPIA, WA - Northwest utilities are at the head of the pack when it comes to signing up customers to pay extra for renewable or "green" power. Correspondent Tom Banse has details.

Well over 100-thousand electricity customers in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho tax themselves to subsidize renewable energy. Rachel Shimshak of Portland is one of them. The energy non-profit director pays "a few dollars" extra each month to go green.

Shimshak: "I'd like my utility to know that I support renewable energy 100%. Through my actions, I want to tell them that I want them to do more."

Customers like Shimshak have propelled Portland General Electric and Pacific Power into the top 3 nationwide for green energy enrollments. Bellevue, Washington-based Puget Sound Energy also ranks high. But in terms of percentages, the numbers are less impressive. Only 6 percent of P-G-E's customers sign up for wind, solar, or geothermal power. The electrons you get are the same no matter what kind of customer you are. The bill add on compensates the utility for increasing renewables in its overall mix.