



**The Uniting Church In Australia
NSW Synod**

From the office of the
MODERATOR

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1551:JM:SW

Dear friends,

We all now well aware of the dire prospects for the world if global warming is allowed to continue unchecked. Hard-nosed economists have joined environmentalists warning that the human consequences of failing to act to stop global warming will be serious.

Millions will die from malnutrition, diarrhoea, malaria and dengue fever unless effective controls are in place.

As you will have read in *Insights* magazine, the 2006 meeting of the New South Wales Synod asked all congregations, presbyteries and agencies to make one, simple and practical first step to help stop polluting the air and stop global warming: switch to government accredited "Green Power".

Every one of us — as individuals and together as congregations — can no longer afford to be comfortably detached from the consequences of our actions. We have a moral and theological imperative, as stewards of the earth, to be actively concerned with environmental issues.

I strongly encourage your congregation or agency to switch to Green Power, so your energy supplier will ensure that the amount of energy you nominate will be produced from renewable sources, avoiding the use of coal-derived power.

If every church in the New South Wales Synod switched to Green Power it could cut greenhouse gasses by 4,500 tonnes — the equivalent of taking 1,000 cars off the road for a year.

Maroubra Junction Uniting Church, which has a community house, a hall that serves as a preschool and a church building, estimates that it costs \$156 (or 0.16 per cent of its power budget) for a Green Power levy to compensate for the 11.21 tonnes of greenhouse gases the church produces annually.

At the most, you will be paying an extra seven dollars a week.

The Uniting Church is working closely with Church Resources to negotiate the most efficient arrangement with a selected energy provider, but you can also make your own arrangements if desired.

I urge your congregation or agency to choose an option and follow the steps suggested on the following page.

Yours in Christ,

Jim Mein
Moderator, NSW Synod

Steps to switch to Green Power

Method A. To be included in an aggregated Uniting Church portfolio that should reduce costs.

1. Call Mark McManus at Church Resources on 02 9439 2622 or fax a copy of your energy account (front and back page) with a cover sheet that contains your contact details to 02 9439 2802.

Mark is the Account Manager for Utilities at Church Resources with more than six years experience in the energy industry. Mark works closely with all retailers and is confident that a cost effective option can be achieved if we all group together. As green energy is a separate commodity to black energy it can be negotiated individually, removing the need to have the same energy retailer for all of our sites.

Method B: This method is for those of you who want to act immediately.

1. Get your most recent power bill.
2. Call your power provider (the phone number will be on the bill) and tell them you want to switch to 100% Government Accredited Green Power. You will need to give them your account number which is also on the bill.
3. If for some reason your power provider does not provide Green Power then refer to Method C.

Method C: This method is for those who wish to be more discerning about which power provider to use.

1. Go to the following websites which give a complete list of all Green Power providers in New South Wales and the ACT:
<http://greenpower.gov.au/pages/Home-Who-Sells-Nsw.php>
<http://greenpower.gov.au/pages/Home-Who-Sells-act.php>
2. This list provides links to all the provider websites so you can assess which one is best for you.
3. Things to consider when making your choice.
 - a. Price: there are a range of prices. Some may even offer free Green Power as long as you commit to a long-term contract.
 - b. Type of Green Power: the most environmentally friendly forms of Green Power are *wind and solar*. Hydro is the most common but it requires the damming of rivers, which are a finite resource, and causes environmental damage. Many providers will not allow you to choose what type of Green Power you use; others such as Origin Energy are more flexible, which is the reason Maroubra Junction Church has chosen to go with Origin's 100% solar option — *bearing in mind that flexibility costs more*.
4. Once you have decided which provider you wish to go with, simply give them a call. Make sure you have your most recent power bill handy.

For more information, visit <http://nsw.uca.org.au/greenchurch.htm> and for advice from Maroubra Junction, contact Geoff Callaghan, geoffcallaghan@hotmail.com, or Chris Hartley, cjhartleymjuca@gmail.com