

Ohio's Electric Cooperatives & Renewable Energy



Ohio's Electric Cooperatives has added capacity from a variety of renewable energy sources in and out of the state:

OurSolar community solar farms

2.1 MW of aggregate solar energy capacity installed locally at 24 locations throughout Ohio. Individual sizes range from 25 kW to over 600 kW. Local member cooperatives may offer subscriptions to these solar farms as an alternative source of generation. These subscriptions provide direct access to solar generation to electric consumers who otherwise may not have the means or ability to have their own rooftop systems.

Anaerobic manure digesters at dairy, egg, and hog farms.

3.85 MW from agricultural biogas projects in Ohio. Buckeye Power purchases the excess generation from animal waste anaerobic digester systems at four locations across the state. Bacteria break down the manure produced at these dairy, pork and poultry operations to create the methane gas used to fuel

engine-and-generator sets. Power flows onto the grid via interconnections with the member systems Consolidated, Midwest, and North Western electric cooperatives.

Methane gas generation at landfills

9.6 MW from the Hancock County Landfill and Suburban Regional Landfill (in Perry County), using interconnections provided by Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative and South Central Power.

Hydropower from upstate New York

55-MW entitlement from the New York Power Authority (NYPA), an attractively priced hydroelectric power that was added in 2004. NYPA is the largest state-owned power organization in the nation and a not-for-profit provider of generation to electric cooperatives, community-owned electric systems, and private utilities. Power comes primarily from the Niagara (90 percent) and St. Lawrence rivers.

Renewable Energy Partnerships



In FY 2008, Ohio's Electric Cooperatives joined the National Renewables Cooperative Organization (NRCO), a "super cooperative" tasked with identifying viable renewable energy projects and making green power available to its members. NRCO includes cooperatives in multiple states that serve more than 22 million consumers. NRCO allows members to jointly pool their resources to participate in and benefit from utility-scale renewable energy projects.

Ohio's Electric Cooperatives and Logan County Electric Cooperative worked with Honda on the installation of two wind turbines at the company's transmission manufacturing plant near Russells Point. The turbines supplied about 13 percent of the plant's electricity needs in 2014, their first year of operation.

EnviroWatts® — Electric cooperative members can elect to purchase green energy through this program. Renewable energy comes from Ohio's Electric Cooperatives' biogas and landfill gas generation systems.

Our renewable energy demonstration projects — a wind turbine at Indian Lake High School in Logan County and a solar panel at Butler Rural Electric Cooperative—continue to provide educational opportunities for students and the public, while helping build a performance database for evaluating the efficiency and return-on-investment of small distributed generation systems. The wind turbine erected and monitored by high school science students won a Cooperative Research Network "Cooperative Innovators" award.

(See real-time data at www.ohioec.org)