

# BENCO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE WELLSPRING PROGRAM



Touchstone Energy®

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

### **HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO STAY ON THE PROGRAM?**

You must remain on the program for at least 12 months. After 12 months, you may discontinue participation at any time.

### **WHERE IS THE WELLSPRING WIND ENERGY PRODUCED?**

Wind energy is produced from large wind turbines located mainly in southern Minnesota, while the solar energy is produced by Great River Energy solar resources throughout the state of Minnesota.

### **WHAT EXACTLY AM I BUYING?**

Those who participate in the Wellspring program are purchasing renewable energy credits (RECs). For every 1,000 kWhs of clean, renewable electricity generation, a REC is created. A REC embodies all of the environmental attributes of the generation and can be tracked separately from the underlying electricity. We are providing Wellspring energy to you through our investments as a generation and transmission cooperative.

### **IS THE WELLSPRING ENERGY SUPPLIED DIRECTLY TO MY HOME?**

No. The electricity generated by the wind turbines and solar panels is fed into the region's electric system called the grid. It's like pouring a pitcher of water into a pond. Once it is poured into the pond, you cannot get the water from the pitcher back out again. The same holds true for recapturing wind and solar-generated electricity from the grid. It is there and available to use, but to deliver the exact electrons generated by the wind turbine or the solar panel is not possible. The wind and solar power you

purchase replaces electricity that would have been generated by conventional fossil fuels.

### **WILL I STILL RECEIVE CONVENTIONAL POWER SOURCES?**

You will receive a mix of power sources. You won't be able to distinguish whether the electrons flowing into your home are generated by wind, solar or another resource. But, you can be assured the commitment to purchase Wellspring wind and solar energy help lessen our reliance on fossil fuels.

### **WILL POWER IN MY HOME BE DEPENDENT ON THE WIND BLOWING OR THE SUN SHINING?**

No. Your power will continue as usual because additional generation is built to ensure power is supplied when the wind is not blowing or the sun is not shining.

### **CAN WE GENERATE ALL OUR ELECTRICITY FROM WIND AND SOLAR?**

No. Wind and solar are great ways to meet some of our electricity needs. However, wind and solar do not generate all of our electricity needs because the wind doesn't blow and the sun doesn't shine all the time.

### **WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?**

To qualify for the program you must be a BENCO member.