

GREENING

Our Communities



earth-wise info from your Modesto Irrigation District

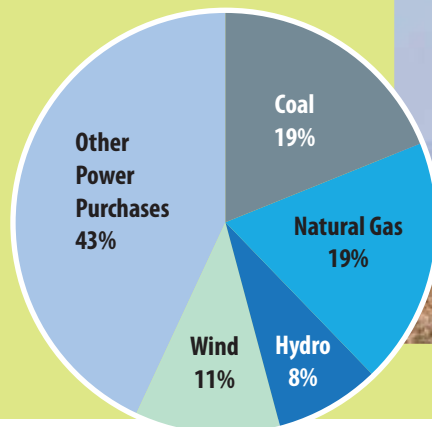
Wind energy adds balance to MID's power mix

Mother Nature likes to keep things in balance, and so does MID. MID learned the importance of balance when a severe drought in the late 1970s all but dried up the hydropower that was MID's only source of electricity at the time.

Afterwards, MID launched a 20-year effort to diversify our electric resources. Today MID strives to cushion electric customers from price and supply shocks by generating some power at facilities we own and buying some power from other suppliers. MID avoids becoming dependent on any single fuel source, facility, geographic location, supplier or contract.

"Adding non-polluting, green energy to MID's energy mix is sound environmentally and in terms of risk management," explains Roger VanHoy, MID Assistant General Manager of Electric Resources. "The challenges are that renewable energy is less dependable and costs 30-40 percent more than conventional energy. So a balanced power mix is still the key."

In 2003 MID set a goal of supplying 20 percent of our customers' electricity from clean, renewable sources by 2017. We've ramped up quickly to reach 11 percent in 2009. Presently most of MID's renewable energy comes from wind farms located at two facilities in Solano County and one in Washington state. MID continues to aggressively seek the most reliable, cost-effective renewable energy available, including opportunities in solar, biomass and geothermal.



Blowing in the wind

- Your MID power – 11 % wind in 2009.
- Wind provides MID more power than Don Pedro (9% of MID power in an average water year).
- MID buys no power from wind farms on the Altamont Pass.
- Wind power costs more than conventional energy but considerably less than solar power.



High-efficiency wind turbines in Solano County

MID takes earth-friendly actions every day

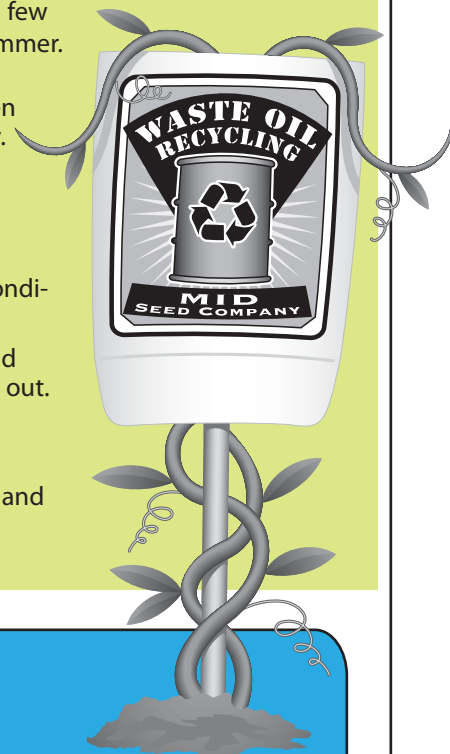
It's nice to remember the planet on Earth Day, but what about the other 364 days? In 112 years of stewardship of the Tuolumne River and service to agriculture, MID has learned that small things done well each day add up to big results over time – the way planting seeds in a garden produces big yields at harvest. Here are some of the earth-friendly practices MID uses in day-to-day operations:

- MID encourages best water use practices in agriculture by helping farmers pay for water-saving upgrades to their irrigation systems. Growers invest their own money, and MID provides matching funds, averaging \$160,000 a year over the last five years.
- In 2008, MID recycled 600 tires into clean mulch for gardens, landscaping and playgrounds – small auto tires, heavy equipment tires, even trash tires pulled from irrigation canals. This January, 1,000 more tires were picked up for recycling.
- Since 1998, all the diesel fuel at our Service Center (where most MID vehicles fill up) has been biodiesel, a renewable fuel made from vegetable oils. We've used over 465,000 gallons in the last six years, over 19,000 so far in 2009. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, using biodiesel reduces emissions of carbon dioxide, particulates and other pollutants.
- MID has 24 E-85 vehicles that can run on a blend of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent unleaded gasoline. That's not counting our 20 dual gasoline-propane vehicles, which include pick-ups, forklifts and personal lifts.

Plant a few seeds – reap a harvest of savings

Saving energy doesn't have to cost a lot of cash up front. Often it's just a matter of changing a few habits. Resolve to plant a few energy-saving seeds of your own this summer.

- Set your thermostat at 78° or higher when you're at home, 85° or higher when away.
- Use fans to move air and feel cooler.
- Change or clean the air conditioner filter monthly, or as needed.
- Trim bushes away from the outside air conditioning unit.
- Caulk and weather strip around doors and windows. Keeps cool air in, summer heat out.
- Replace at least five incandescent bulbs with CFLs.
- Turn off lights, TVs, stereos, video games and computers when not in use.



More 2008 recycling:

- 17,000 pounds of assorted batteries
 - 66,000 gallons of waste oil and
 - 74 tons of oil-filled equipment like oil filters and transformers.
 - 174,507 pounds of scrap iron
 - 17,114 pounds of cardboard
 - 15,000 pounds of copier paper
 - almost 160 tons of aluminum, copper and lead electrical cable
- plus switching to reusable steel cable reels saved 168,000 pounds of total environmental wood over the last four years.*

MODESTO IRRIGATION DISTRICT REBATE COUPON

**\$10
REBATE**

2009 Lights for Le\$\$



Spend at least \$20 on ENERGY STAR® QUALIFIED SCREW-IN COMPACT FLUORESCENT LAMPS (CFLs) and get a \$10 rebate from MID. Limit two CFL rebate coupons per calendar year per residential customer. Maximum yearly rebate \$20. MID must receive the coupon and copy of the receipt by Dec. 19, 2009.

Name on MID Account: _____

MID Electric Service Address: _____

MID Account Number: _____

LAMP DETAILS	
WATTAGE	QUANTITY
Less than or equal to 15W	
Between 16 -24W	
Greater than or equal to 25W	

Clip coupon, attach copy of receipt and mail to: MID ENERGY SERVICES / PO BOX 4060 / MODESTO, CA 95352-4060
MID will credit your account. For additional information on CFLs and MID rebates visit www.mid.org or call the MID Energy Management hotline, (209) 526-7339.

MID donates shade trees



The right tree in the right place

Greater Modesto Tree Foundation member Kerry Elms helps brothers Elvis Gallardo and James Tlaseca plant a tree in their front yard as mom looks on.

Working in partnership with the Greater Modesto Tree Foundation, the Modesto Weed & Seed program and neighborhood groups, MID has donated over 100 shade trees since 2008. Volunteers planted the trees at homes in two of our communities' neediest neighborhoods, southwest Modesto and the Airport District. Bob Hondeville, MID Energy Services Supervisor, says: "Shade trees aren't a quick solution for summer energy costs, but over time they can really make a difference. The important thing is planting the right tree in the right place." Tree Foundation arborists are making sure the trees are placed to shade the roofs of homes when full-grown.

California Climate Action Registry welcomes MID

The California Climate Action Registry (CCAR) has named MID a Climate Action Leader for registering our 2007 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. MID's emissions report can be reviewed at: www.climateregistry.org/CARROT/public/reports.aspx.

CCAR is a non-profit registry that promotes early actions by organizations to reduce emissions of GHGs believed to play a part in global warming. To ensure accuracy, independent third-party auditors make on-site inspections to verify reported emissions data.



MID reported all 2007 carbon dioxide emissions for power plants, including emissions from a coal-fired plant in San Juan, New Mexico, of which MID is a part owner; motor vehicles; small equipment; and building use. Future reports will include other types of GHGs.

"This move signals MID's commitment to openness and transparency about greenhouse gas emissions," says MID General Manager Allen Short. "MID's reports will form a baseline against which our future progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions can be measured."

Recycle your fridge, get \$35 back

Considering a new refrigerator or freezer? Or simply resolved to get rid of the energy hog in your garage? Recycle the old unit properly, spare the landfill and get a \$35 rebate from MID. Our partner, **JACO Environmental**, will pick up your old refrigerator or freezer and recycle about 90 percent of it. JACO safely removes and either stores or destroys any hazardous or toxic substances such as Freon™, foam insulation and contaminated compressor oils. Find complete info online at

www.mid.org/rebates/home/recycle.htm.



The cost of fighting global warming

Some call it global warming, some call it climate change. Most – but definitely not all – in the scientific community, the news media and the general public seem to agree it's happening.

Regardless of where you stand, believe this: In 2008 California passed sweeping new laws to address global warming. All economic sectors, including every California electric utility, must comply by reducing their emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs). For electric utilities, a big part of reducing GHGs is switching to renewable energy.

Every MID customer should know these facts about GHG legislation: MID set a goal of 20 percent renewable energy by 2017. However, in late 2008 the Governor issued an executive order requiring California electric utilities to have 33 percent renewable energy by 2020. Ramping up from 20 to 33 percent renewable energy will cost MID customers an estimated \$30 million a year extra by 2020. At this point, the state is providing no money to help cover the cost increases. MID electric rates will almost certainly go up to pay for these state mandates. We don't yet know how much.

"MID is committed to doing all we can to reduce the impact of these mandates on our customers," says General Manager Allen Short. As state agencies develop the regulations to put these new laws into effect, MID staff members are staying closely engaged on your behalf. Stay tuned!



Take control of your summer energy costs with MID rebates

MID is offering 2009 rebates on a wide range of energy-efficient products for home and business, plus rebates on new home and new commercial construction and on solar photovoltaic systems. To learn more, visit www.mid.org/rebates/default.htm or call 209 526-7339 today.

GET M POWERED

Did you know?

In 2008 MID:

- Processed 3,300 rebate applications
- Paid customers over \$1.5 million in rebates and
- Helped customers reduce their energy use by over 20 million kilowatthours!

Know your MID

- Public agency
- Not-for-profit
- Cost-based rates
- Founded 1887
- Irrigation water 1904
- Electric service 1923
- Drinking water 1994

Contact MID

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CustomerService@mid.org

Energy Conservation

209 526-7339
Toll-free
1-800-304-5373

Comments about this publication

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CommunityService@mid.org



NEVER SWIM IN CANALS!
¡NUNCA NADE EN LOS CANALES!

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