

## What is this program about?

- This is a voluntary renewable energy program made available to co-op members through a coordinated effort between Great River Energy (GRE) and 28 member distribution co-ops.
- It's about supporting the development of renewable energy, an option requested by members.

## What is biomass?

- Biomass is any organic substance, such as wood, straw, animal waste, or any other material produced by plants.

## How is this biomass power produced?

- The biomass, or cow power electricity offered by ECE, is produced from methane gas generated on two dairy farms within GRE service territory. Organic matter is directed to a large domed reservoir where it is broken down by anaerobic bacteria into methane gas. The gas then powers a generator located at the farm. Excess power generated above the farm's needs is sold to ECE members as Biomass Energy.

## Would this power be supplied directly to my home?

- No. The electricity generated is fed into the electric system, called the grid. This makes it impossible to deliver that exact same electricity to you, but the cow power that is generated will still replace electricity that would otherwise have been generated by conventional fossil fuels.

## Is there an additional cost for this power?

- ECE sells renewable energy in 100-kWh blocks. The cost is \$0.40 per block above our regular rate. Prices may change due to increases in wholesale rates.
- For each additional block that you purchase, you will see an additional \$0.40 line item charge on your ECE billing statement.
- ECE asks for a one-year commitment to participate in this program.

## How many blocks of cow power am I eligible for?

- You may purchase as many blocks as you wish, but typically members choose to purchase the number of blocks equal to their average monthly usage. (i.e. 540 kWh monthly usage qualifies for five blocks)

## How can I get more information on the Haubenschild Farms Digester, located within ECE service territory near Princeton?

- A full report, or report summary, is available at "The Minnesota Project," 651-645-6159, or [www.mnproject.org](http://www.mnproject.org).