



# Renewable Energy Update

## Renewable Resource Commitment

- AECC has long shown its commitment to the use of renewable energy; the cooperative owns and operates three run-of-the-river hydropower plants located on the Arkansas River.
- These three hydropower plants represent approximately a \$330-million investment in renewable energy.
- AECC is committed to the integration of other types of renewable resources into its generation portfolio, and will consider opportunities that meet its members' needs in a reliable and cost-effective manner.
- At the current time, the optimum locations for wind resources exist outside of Arkansas, which presents significant challenges due to the lack of adequate transmission capacity to bring most of these resources into AECC's members' service territory.
- Solar power is not yet considered to be cost effective; continued research and development efforts are necessary before this technology can be deployed in a larger way.
- Biomass fuels—wood waste, chicken litter, cow and swine manure, landfill gases and other fuel sources—cost more than conventional fuels, but may provide economic benefits to particular industries, and may present net cost-benefits to the state, thereby justifying state government assistance, economic development grants or other industry partnerships.
- Incremental hydropower opportunities may arise from time to time, but typically have long licensing periods, require significant investments and pose significant risk.
- New technologies will continue to emerge and will, over time, make existing technologies more commercially viable and economic for widescale use.
- AECC will continue to evaluate all such renewable options and will utilize those that provide reliable, low-cost power.



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