

Fall 2018

## Smarter Together

Avista will soon be installing smart meters across its Washington service territory. The meters will be able to communicate directly with Avista so our people can detect and restore power outages faster than ever. Smart meter technology also creates the foundation for additional customer benefits in the future.

Avista's electric customers will be receiving new smart electric meters, and natural gas customers will have smart modules added to their existing gas meters. A short time before crews begin installing the meters, information will be sent to affected customers explaining when we'll be in their area and what to expect.

For more information, call us at 800-227-9187 or visit [myavista.com/smartmeters](http://myavista.com/smartmeters).



## Washington Commercial Customers Participate in Solar Project in a Big Way

Earlier this year, Washington commercial customers were offered the chance to participate in Solar Select™, an innovative program to help businesses further reduce their carbon footprints and reach their sustainability goals.

The program provides shared solar electricity—and the associated Renewable Energy Credits (RECs)—from a new solar array being constructed in Lind, Washington. The 200-acre, 28-megawatt project is 25 times the size of any other system in Washington State.

Groundbreaking was held in late May, with the array expected to be online in December.

The Solar Select program was made available through a power purchase agreement that leveraged federal and state incentives to deliver renewable energy to participating Avista Washington commercial customers. Subscriptions to the project are currently full. Avista is committed to meeting customer interest in renewable energy and is looking at ways to offer additional programs.



**May 2018 groundbreaking of new solar array.** Pictured: (left to right) John Knight, VP Western Region and Chief Strategy Officer at Strata; Roger Hartwig, Adams County Commissioner;

Marc Schaffner, Renewable Products Manager at Avista; John Marshall, Adams County Commissioner; and Terry Thompson, Adams County Commissioner.

## How We Support Your Solar Ambitions

**What is solar power?** Energy from the sun that's captured and converted to electricity with photovoltaic cells.

**How it helps the environment.** Solar power doesn't produce carbon dioxide emissions when it is generated.

**How you can benefit.** Avista offers guidance on two solar options: rooftop self-installation and community solar

programs. Both include financial and environmental benefits for you.

Still have a question about solar? Learn more at [myavista.com/solarestimator](http://myavista.com/solarestimator).



## Events Coming Soon

### SPOKANE RIVER CLEANUP

Thursday, September 15, 2018  
9:00 a.m. - Noon at Kendall Yards

Join over 600 folks from across our region for the 15th Annual Spokane River Clean-Up, happening Saturday, September 15.

The Clean-Up is a great way to give back to the community and beautify the river. This year's event will cover locations in Spokane Valley, the University District, the Downtown River Gorge area around Peaceful Valley, High Bridge Park and People's Park.

Whether you're a first-timer or an experienced picker-upper, you're invited to join the fun. Register at [www.spokanerivercleanup.org](http://www.spokanerivercleanup.org).

### NATIONAL DRIVE ELECTRIC WEEK

All-electric and hybrid-electric cars, trucks and motorcycles are more available than ever. Not only are they fun to drive, they are less expensive to fuel than gasoline vehicles and better for the environment. If you're considering going electric, come talk to current owners and take a test drive during National Drive Electric Week. Register for the following events at [driveelectricweek.org](http://driveelectricweek.org).

### Electric Vehicle Showcase

#### Ride and Drive

September 14, 2018  
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Kendall Yards

### National Drive Electric Show & Tell

September 8, 2018  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Liberty Lake STA parking lot  
(behind farmers' market)

### REFOREST SPOKANE

October 13, 2018  
9:00 am - Noon  
Highbridge Park Pavilion, Spokane

Avista is once more partnering with the Lands Council of Spokane for Reforest Spokane, and you're invited to come spend a Saturday morning helping to plant new trees and shrubs. You'll also learn about other ways the Lands Council and Avista are committed to preserving and protecting the Spokane River and surrounding areas.

## Support Renewable Energy with Buck-A-Block

Avista's Buck-A-Block program was designed to give customers an inexpensive way to support the development of renewable energy. By volunteering to give an additional BUCK (\$1.00) on their utility bills each month, customers enable Avista to purchase a BLOCK of renewable energy credits (RECs) equal to 300 kilowatt hours.

Last year participating Avista customers in Idaho and Washington purchased 69 million kilowatt-hours of new renewable energy, which is enough emission-free energy to offset the environmental impact of 5,500 homes for an entire year.

### What is a Renewable Energy Credit?

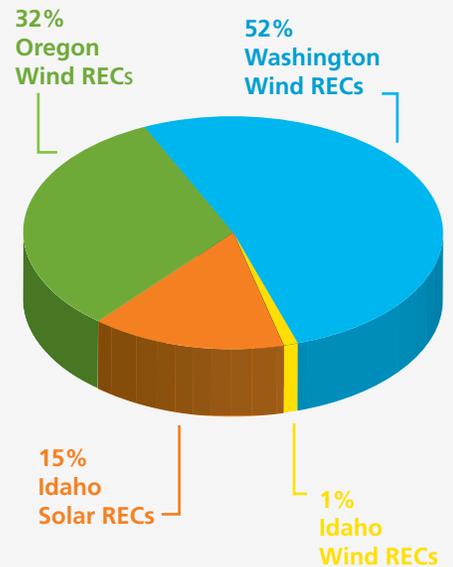
Renewable energy facilities like wind farms and solar arrays not only produce electricity but create "environmental offsets" called Renewable Energy Credits (REC). One REC is created for every one mega-watt hour of electricity these facilities generate.

RECs can compensate for carbon emissions created by other energy resources consumed daily, such as gasoline used in automobiles. For instance, in 2017, participants in Avista's Buck-A-Block program purchased 230,000 blocks of RECs, or 69,000 megawatt hours (Mwh) of electricity. This is enough renewable energy to offset the environmental

impacts of 5700 homes, which is equal to the amount of carbon dioxide emitted from vehicles using 5.7 million gallons of gasoline.

The chart below shows the percentage of RECs purchased in 2017 from qualifying renewable energy resources in the Northwest.

### 2017 Buck-A-Block Renewable Energy Acquisition



## CELEBRATE THE SUN!

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ACCT #: \_\_\_\_\_

As a thank-you for your commitment to renewable energy, we'd like to give you this unique inflatable solar lantern as our gift. It's a fun way to shed a bit of light on your fall activities. To claim yours, complete and return this form with your monthly Avista bill. Or email it to [buckablock@avistacorp.com](mailto:buckablock@avistacorp.com).

Please redeem by October 31, 2018, or while supplies last.

