

# Gore gets heat for his electric bills

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*Staff says he uses compact fluorescent bulbs*

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A day after receiving Oscar glory for a documentary on global warming, former Vice President Al Gore was called a hypocrite by a Tennessee group saying his Belle Meade home is using too much energy.

The home's average month electric bill topped \$1,359, according to the group.

"As the spokesman of choice for the global warming movement, Al Gore has to be willing to walk (the walk, not just talk the talk, when it comes to home energy use," said Drew Johnson, president of the Tennessee Center for Policy Research.

Electric bills obtained by The Tennessean, however, showed that Gore is paying a premium on his bills to be part of the "green power" program. Gore purchased 108 blocks of "green power" for at least each of the last three months, according to a summary of bills from Nashville Electric Service.

That's a total of \$432 a month spent to pay extra for solar or other renewable energy sources. NES power – outside this program - is derived largely from coal, which emits carbon, a green house gas.

The green power purchased by Gore in those three months is equivalent to recycling 2.48 million aluminum cans, or recycling 286,092 pounds of newspaper, according to comparison figures on the utility's Web site.

Gore's movie details how greenhouse gases are trapping heat next to the earth, causing a changing climate with melting ice caps and more violent storms.

"Every family has a different carbon footprint," said Kalee Krider, a spokeswoman for Gore.

The Gore's 10,000 square foot house on Lynnwood Boulevard doesn't have a small one.

The Green Power Switch program, however, isn't all he and his wife, Tipper, are doing, Krider said.

They use compact fluorescent lights and are in the midst of a renovation project that includes having solar panels installed on their home to reduce fossil fuel consumption more, she said.

Their car? A Lexus hybrid SUV.

They put money into an investment company that Gore co-founded with a man named David Blood and it, in turn, sends the money to pay for solar, wind and other projects that reduce energy consumption around the globe.