

# Business

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## **Safeway goes green in energy purchase** **In addition to buying wind energy, the grocery chain will annually** **recycle 500,000 tons of materials**

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MEDIANEWS

Grocery giant Safeway Inc. is making blowout moves to save energy, purchasing additional wind power and cutting back on usage in a direction that reflects the governor's recent signing of the greenhouse emissions bill.

Pleasanton-based Safeway is purchasing an additional 174,000 megawatt-hours of wind energy, making it California's largest corporate purchaser of green wind energy, the company said. The purchase is enough to power Safeway's corporate headquarters, all of its San Francisco stores and its 269 U.S. fuel stations for two years, according to the company.

Last week, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed AB32, which aims to reduce the state's global-warming pollution by one-quarter by 2020. Along those lines, Safeway is joining the Chicago Climate Exchange, a greenhouse gas emission reduction program, and initiating a new program cutting energy use.

"All these things are great steps," said Gregg Fishman of California Independent Service Operator, which runs the state's energy grid. "The new wind generation facilities being built in California can help offset the natural gas generation that produces greater emissions. It's (wind energy) an important part of a well-balanced energy portfolio."

Wind energy plants use turbines to generate electricity and generate no emissions, unlike fossil fuel power plants. Coal-fired plants emit tons of pollutants and greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxide.

Safeway estimates that its wind energy commitment will remove an additional 110,000 tons of carbon dioxide from the air. The company is also cutting back on energy use in refrigeration and lighting.

Also, Safeway will annually recycle nearly 500,000 tons of materials such as cardboard and plastic, the equivalent of six football fields stacked 35 feet high.

"As one of California's largest private employers, Safeway intends to be a leader in forging innovative solutions for a cleaner, healthier environment," said Steve Burd, the company's chief executive