



For immediate release: April 20, 2011

### **Reliant Powers Customers' Homes and Small Businesses with Renewable Energy for Earth Day**

HOUSTON – In recognition of Earth Day, Reliant Energy is supporting renewable energy and helping reduce the environmental impact of its residential and small business customers across the state by purchasing Texas renewable energy credits (RECs) to meet their estimated electricity needs for the day.

“Earth Day is a great opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to making this world a better place for future generations,” said Jason Few, President of Reliant Energy. “At Reliant Energy, our goal is to make it easy for our customers to use energy in ways that work for them and to provide a range of plans, including 100 percent renewable energy, that reduce the environmental impact of the energy they use. Together, by reducing the environmental impact of our everyday lives, we can make a big difference.”

In March, the company launched a new program called **Reliant EcoShare<sup>SM</sup>** that offers customers another way to support a better environment. Reliant EcoShare<sup>SM</sup> combines the purchase of carbon offsets along with ongoing support to EarthShare of Texas, an organization that provides funding to some of the most respected and responsible environmental and conservation organizations in Texas and across the country, including the Children’s Environmental Health Institute, Clean Water Fund of Texas and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation.

In addition to providing customers with options like Reliant EcoShare<sup>SM</sup>, all of Reliant Energy’s residential and small business customers can choose a plan with 100 percent Texas wind and all of the company’s term plans include 20 percent Texas wind. Reliant purchases more RECs than any other electricity provider in Texas and recently used some of those RECs to provide renewable electricity for the men’s college basketball tournament at Reliant Stadium and the full 20 days of the 2011 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Every year, Reliant Energy supports initiatives and programs across Texas that contribute to a cleaner environment and has employees who dedicate hundreds of volunteer hours to environmental projects. For Earth Day this year, Reliant Energy is working with local civic organizations to help plant and giveaway more than 1,000 tree seedlings in cities including Corpus Christi, McAllen and Edinburg.

Renewable energy credits are created when electricity is produced using resources such as wind,

solar, biomass or hydro power. By purchasing additional credits, Reliant ensures that an amount of electricity equal to that consumed by its customers is generated from renewable sources, in this case wind.

Carbon offsets reduce the effect of carbon dioxide generated by using electricity or other daily activity such as driving a car. Through its EcoShare<sup>SM</sup> program, Reliant will purchase and retire carbon offsets equal to the participation level that customers select. Carbon offsets for the Reliant EcoShare<sup>SM</sup> program meet approved standards established by organizations respected for their environmental integrity to ensure that they represent real, verifiable reductions in greenhouse gases.

### **About Reliant Energy**

Reliant Energy provides electricity and energy services to more than 1.5 million retail customers—including homes, small and large businesses, manufacturing facilities, government entities and institutions across Texas. The company also offers service to commercial, industrial, governmental and institutional customers in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia. As part of NRG Energy, Inc. (NYSE: NRG), Reliant Energy is backed by one of the nation's largest power producers. NRG owns and operates 25,000 megawatts (MW) of generation capacity, including more than 11,000 MW of capacity in Texas. For more information about Reliant Energy products and services, visit [www.reliant.com](http://www.reliant.com).

###

For more information: Pat Hammond, (713) 537-2157