Green Mountain Energy Company



Green Mountain's First Hispanic-Targeted Marketing Campaign

October 29, 2008 Rachel Fagan





Who is Green Mountain?

- Nation's leading provider of cleaner energy products and carbon offset solutions
 - Texas' <u>only</u> electricity provider dedicated to cleaner energy
- ► Founded in Vermont in 1997
- Headquartered in Texas
- Sold > 6 billion kilowatt-hours of renewable energy into the market since 1997
- Spurred development of 37 renewable facilities across the U.S.



The Hispanic Consumer in TX

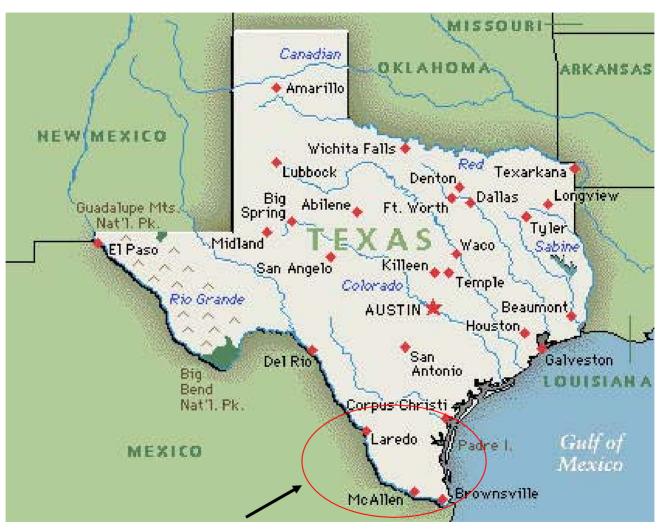
- Hispanic consumers represent 36% of Texas' population¹
 - 8.6 million people
- ➤ One of the fastest-growing demographics in the U.S.²
- Very strong purchasing power³
 - Over \$140 billion in Texas
- More receptive to marketing messages than non-Hispanics⁴
 - Specifically, TV & OOH

¹ U.S. Census, 2007 American Community Survey

² Mintel

³ Selig Center for Economic Growth, Terry College of Business, The University of Georgia, "The Multicultural Economy 2006," June 2006





Rio Grande Valley



Research Goals

- ▶ Better understand reasons for direct sales success in Rio Grande Valley (RGV)
- Understand Hispanic perceptions on:
 - Deregulation
 - Environment
 - Renewable energy
- Learn what brand equities are valuable to Hispanics for creation of brand platform



Methodology

- ► Four focus groups conducted among Hispanic consumers
 - Two each in Houston and Rio Grande Valley
- Two types of Hispanic consumers recruited for each market
 - Environmentally Active
 - Environmentally Inactive



Key Findings

- Deregulation
- Selecting a provider
- Environmental concerns
- Clean Energy
- Price Sensitivity
- Green Mountain awareness
- Messaging
- Marketing



Research Conclusions

- "Clean Energy" was new concept but very readily accepted
- ► Price still an important driver
- Building brand awareness is imperative
- ► Hispanic consumers want to "get to know the company" to feel comfortable doing business
 - High visibility in the market coupled with local events/exposure



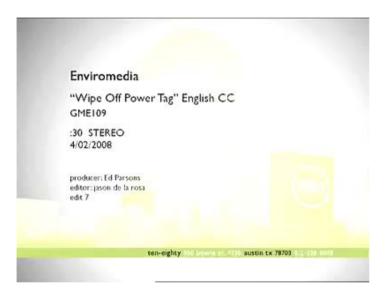
The Media Plan

- Hispanic-targeted media ran in Houston & RGV
- Spanish TV & radio spots
 - Language nuances specific to Hispanic target
- English billboards & local paper print ads
 - Targeted geographies & publications
 - Included specific "1-800-VIENTO" number on all Spanish-language creative
 - Added Spanish-speaking phone sales reps



The Work

►TV





► Radio

English

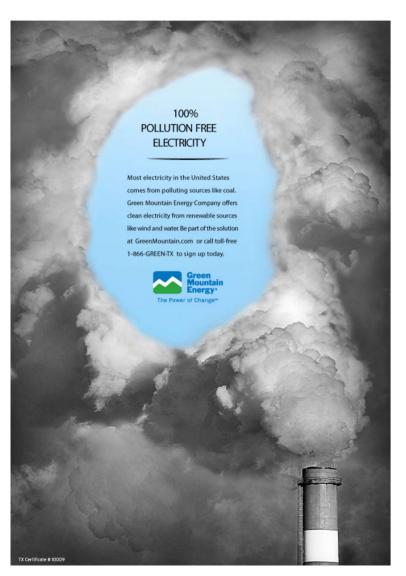


Spanish





The Work



Print and Billboard ads





PR Support

- Conducted media tour in RGV
 - Interviews with 13 media outlets
 - 9 print
 - 5 TV stations (including Spanish with Univision)













The Results

- Spanish speaking phone sales reps
 - 120% increase in '07-'08 April-August requests
- ► Hits to GMEC website from RGV market
 - Increased an average of 416% from '07-'08 May-August timeframe
- ► Spanish Welcome Kits
 - 80% increase in '07-'08 April-August requests



Additional Support Efforts

- Integration throughout all customer touchpoints; examples:
 - Spanish customer service web pages
 - Additional environmental impact communications in
 - Spanish welcome kits
 - Spanish Cleaner Times newsletter (print only)





Moving Forward

- ▶ '08 efforts deemed successful
- ▶ '09 plan calls for continued support of Hispanic marketing efforts
 - Exact markets TBD



Questions?

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