



Community Energy Aggregation Frequently Asked Questions



What is Community Energy Aggregation?

Community Energy Aggregation is a program permitted under New Jersey State law that allows municipalities to pool together residents and conduct a bid for power supply from third-party suppliers, with the aim of obtaining a power supply price that is cheaper than the power supplied by the electric utility. The program is conducted under the oversight of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, the Division of Rate Counsel and the Department of Community Affairs. Plumsted has named its program the Plumsted Community Energy Aggregation (PCEA).

Has this type of program been implemented previously?

Yes, this is the sixth round of the PCEA program. In Round 1 of the PCEA program the Township awarded a contract to ConEdison Solutions; that contract ran from January 2013 to January 2014. The PCEA Round 2 contract was awarded Verde Energy, which ran from January 2015 to November 2015. For Round 3 of the PCEA program, the Township awarded TriEagle Energy which ran from March 2016 to December 2017. Round 4 of the PCEA the Township awarded a contract to Constellation NewEnergy, which ran from December 2017 to December 2019. For Round 5 of the PCEA program, Plumsted joined together with nearby Manchester Township to form a purchasing cooperative in order to create additional purchasing power. As a result of a competitive bid process, a contract was awarded by the Township for Round 5 of the PCEA program to Constellation NewEnergy; that contract began in December 2019 and will be ending in October 2021. While the Township originally went out for bid again with Manchester in May 2021 for a PCEA-Round 6 contract, the initial competitively bid prices taken in June were not sufficiently attractive to sign with a supplier at that time. However, with improved market conditions Plumsted Township issued a re-bid in July 2021, received improved bid prices, and awarded a contract in July 2021 with the low bidder.

Who has the Township of Plumsted selected as the program supplier for residents in the JCP&L service territory for Round 6 of the PCEA program?

Energy Harbor, LLC was selected by the Township of Plumsted as the qualified supplier with the lowest proposed price for JCP&L customers in a public, competitive procurement. Energy Harbor is an electric power supplier licensed by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities.

When does the program with Energy Harbor begin?

Service will begin with the December 2021 meter read date and will continue for 24 months – until December 2023.

What happens in the interim, between the October 2021 end date of the Round 5 contract and the start of the new Round 6 contract which starts December 2021?

The new contract for Round 6 of the PCEA program starts with the December 2021 meter read date, yet the current contract with Constellation NewEnergy for Round 5 of the PCEA program ends with the October 2021 meter read. The Township chose to award the new contract starting in December 2021, rather than October 2021, as the bids received were more favorable for a contract starting two months later, in December 2021. Constellation NewEnergy, the Round 5 energy supplier, will return residents currently participating in the PCEA program to JCP&L's Basic Generation Service tariff for the interim two month period, effective with their October 2021 meter read date. Residents do not have to do anything differently during this interim period. You will receive notification from JCP&L upon return to the utility Basic Generation Service tariff, and then you will receive notice again from JCP&L once you are enrolled to start the new December 2021 contract with Energy Harbor. Residents who are not currently participating in the PCEA program and are receiving electricity supply service from the JCP&L Basic Generation Service tariff will continue to do so until December 2021.

How does the PCEA program contract price compare to the JCP&L tariff price for electricity supply?

The price of \$0.08580 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) is more than 10% below the average JCP&L tariff price for power supply. Although JCP&L tariff prices are expected to drop somewhat next year, and savings will vary by month based upon usage levels and periodic fluctuations in the actual JCP&L price-to-compare, the average Township resident is still projected to save more than \$100 over the full contract as compared to the average JCP&L tariff price-to-compare over that time period. Those residents that have all-electric homes will likely save more than \$100.

Does the price vary as energy market conditions change?

No. This is a non-variable price that does not change with market conditions. Unlike some third-party supply contracts, the price is locked in through a contract with the Township and will not fluctuate after an initial 'teaser' period.

If I participate in the program, how does this affect my utility bill and service?

Your JCP&L bill includes separate charges for delivery service and for power supply service (i.e., Basic Generation Service). JCP&L will still provide delivery service and read your meter, and you will still receive a single bill from JCP&L which will continue to include the JCP&L delivery charges, but the utility Basic Generation Service charges for power supply will be replaced by the charges offered by the Township's chosen supplier, Energy Harbor. Even if you participate in the program, JCP&L will still be responsible for service reliability and restoration.

Is participation mandatory?

Participation is never mandatory. Residents who are currently participating in Round 5 of the PCEA program, or who do not currently have a third-party supply contract (i.e., take power supply service from JCP&L under the utility's Basic Generation Service tariff) are included in the initial eligibility pool. However, residents can opt out of the PCEA program by mail, phone or electronically using the

Community Energy Aggregation (PCEA)

Program Summary

information in the Program Summary. If you opt out within the 30-day opt-out period (by October 31, 2021), you will not be enrolled in the program at all. Even after enrollment you can opt out any time, effective with the next meter read cycle, and there are no penalties or fees to do so.

Why is this an 'Opt-Out' and not an 'Opt-In' Program?

The State law under which this program is conducted provides for an 'opt-out' structure, as the State concluded that an 'opt-out' structure promotes the most competition and yields the best pricing.

Will I receive any other notifications?

Yes. If you do not opt out of the program, several weeks after receipt of this Information Package you will receive a notification letter from JCP&L indicating that Energy Harbor has enrolled your account for third-party supply and informing you of the date you will be switched to Energy Harbor. This is just an added notification; no further action is required in order to participate.

Will I ever be requested to provide information to a door-to-door solicitor for enrollment in this program?

No. This program does not include any door-to-door solicitation. Energy Harbor has the necessary information already, subject to strict confidentiality. If you are solicited by someone, please do not provide them with your information – alert the Township, the Township's energy consultant, Gabel Associates or Energy Harbor immediately.

Will Energy Harbor ever call me unsolicited?

No. Energy Harbor will not contact residents unprompted via telephone.

What if I get phone calls or mail from companies other than Energy Harbor? Are companies besides Energy Harbor involved in the PCEA?

Energy Harbor is the only company providing power supply to households participating in Round 6 of the PCEA. It is very common for households participating in energy aggregations like ours to get mail or phone solicitations from competitor companies. Be assured that they are unrelated to the PCEA program and have no impact on your power supply.

Who do I call if there is a power outage?

Even if you participate in the PCEA program, JCP&L will still provide delivery service, and will still be responsible for service reliability and restoration. If the lights go out, you would still call JCP&L at 1-888-544-4877. Under this program, nothing changes about your service and reliability.

Will I still be able to receive budget billing (Equal Payment Plan)?

Yes. If you currently have a budget billing plan with JCP&L, the selected supplier is required to provide you with an equal payment plan for your power supply charges. JCP&L will continue to bill a levelized amount each month for delivery service, and Energy Harbor will also bill a levelized amount each month (through the JCP&L bill) for power supply. You may experience a "true-up" on your bill from JCP&L prior to enrollment and then again at the end of the program, and Energy Harbor may periodically adjust the monthly budget amount if your actual usage varies significantly from your historical usage used to set-up the initial budget payment.

What happens at the end of the Township's contract with the supplier?

There is no automatic rollover. If the Township decides to continue the program, it will conduct a new competitive bid for a new contract, and you will be advised of the new contract. If the Township discontinues the program, you will simply be returned to JCP&L power supply at the JCP&L tariff price.

How do I obtain more information?

Program details are provided in the Program Summary enclosed with this package. You can also contact Energy Harbor using the contact information provided in the Program Summary enclosed in this information package or Gabel Associates at 855-365-0770. Additional information regarding the program, including more detailed FAQs, can be found on the Township's website at:

<https://www.plumsted.org/municipal-utilities-authority>