New Jersey Government Energy Aggregation Program

- Established under Government Energy Aggregation Act of 2003 and amended in July 2012 to provide further details of how to run the program.
- The program is supported by the Board of Public Utilities, Department of Community Affairs and the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel.
- Allows for a Municipality to aggregate energy usage of all its residents to obtain lower rates than they can get individually and to PROTECT the ratepayer.
- Service is still provided by the same utility company that provides service to you now.
- Residential ratepayers DO NOT have to be a part of the program.
- Residential ratepayers can leave the program without ANY fees or penalties at any time. Third Party Suppliers must adhere to contract guidelines spelled out in the Government Energy Aggregation Act of 2003 and Title 14…NO FINE PRINT.
- The rate will be obtained through an online auction platform that has been approved for this purpose by the NJ Department of Community Affairs.
- The rate of the contract will be fixed for the entire contract term up to 24 months.
- Third Party Suppliers must continue to accept the terms of the Equal Payment Program aka budget billing.
- The rate for anyone participating in the residential program will be known prior to the program beginning.
- Residents will have the ability to participate in the program for their electricity usage.
- The Third Party Supplier that is chosen will not have the ability to charge any penalties for residents that choose not to participate in the program for any reason.
- Participating in this program will not change the level of service you receive from your local utility company.
- If there is a power outage you will still contact the utility company for service.
- All Third Party Suppliers that have the opportunity to bid on the program will be licensed and bonded with the NJ Board of Public Utilities and be in good standing.
- The Program contracts will be renewed at the end of the contract term and everyone will have the ability to participate in the program or not participate each time the program renews.
- To learn more go to www.njaggregation.us

CONCORD

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Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a Government Energy Aggregation program?

A municipality has the ability to pool together the usage of all their residents to obtain a lower energy supply price than what the Local Distribution Company is currently charging. If they get a lower price, they can then offer it to all their residents.

2. Who oversees the Government Energy Aggregation process?

The NJ Board of Public Utilities, the Rate Counsel and the Division of Community Affairs all play a part in overseeing the Aggregation programs in New Jersey. Commercial Utility Consultants has to work with them when setting up and running the program.

3. Is my municipality the only one in New Jersey doing an Aggregation Program?

Although the program just began in late 2012, there are a numerous municipalities in New Jersey that have already established the program, a few are on their 2nd term and many more are getting started.

4. What information will I receive about the program?

Aside from public meetings and advertising, you will receive at least 2 letters. One is your official informational letter and it provides the details such as the new rate, term, chosen supplier and the deadline for responding. The second is a confirmation letter from the utility company stating you have elected to remain in the program and the date you will be switched over. **This is a form letter stating you have chosen to switch even though the program was chosen by your municipality as a benefit to you. You may disregard this letter.**

5. Is Commercial Utility Consultants (CUC) or Concord Energy Services (CES) an energy supplier?

They are an independent consultant that works with all the energy suppliers licensed to do business in New Jersey by the BPU to obtain the energy contract and work through the process to put the Aggregation program in place for your municipality.

6. Are the people knocking on my door asking about my electric bill a part of this program?

No one associated with CUC/CES or the "winning supplier" will be knocking on your door. CUC/CES & "winning supplier" are the only companies associated with running the aggregation program for you and your municipality.

7. Do I have to be in this program?

Certainly not. You can cancel participation by going to www.njaggregation.us, calling 877-292-3904 or by returning the response card sent to you.

8. Will I be penalized if I do not become a part of the program?

Absolutely not. If you do not want to be a part of it you are free to stay with your utility company or choose your own Third Party Supplier.

9. Are there any fees to be a part of the program or to not participate?

There are no fees or penalties for a resident to be a part of or leave the program, even after it starts.

10. Is the price a "teaser" price that will go up after I am a part of the program?

Your price will always be below or at a minimum or equal to the default rate.

11. Am I going to have to pay more than one bill if I am a part of this program?

You will continue to pay one bill directly to your local utility company just as you do today.

12. Will budget billing be offered as part of this program?

Yes, budget billing is a requirement for the Aggregation Program.

13. If I have solar panels, can I be a part of this program?

At this time, the suppliers are not able to process the net metering portion of the solar credits and we recommend you not participate the program to avoid losing your credits.

14. Who will now read my meter and send the monthly bill?

Your local utility company will continue to read your meter and send you your bill.

15. Who do I call if the electric goes out or I have questions about my bill?

You will continue to call your local utility company just like you always have.

16. Can my information be sold to advertisers or energy companies?

Your information, including your account number, is confidential and can only be used to set up the program your municipality has set up.

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