



Township of Montclair
Sustainable Essex Alliance Renewable-GEA (SEA R-GEA)
Program Announcement

Dear Montclair Township Resident:

In 2018 the Township of Montclair, together with neighboring Essex County communities Glen Ridge, Maplewood, South Orange and Verona, came together to form the Sustainable Essex Alliance Energy Procurement Cooperative (SEAEPC), a joint purchasing initiative with the goal of using bulk purchasing power to procure electric power supply on behalf of Township residents at a lower price, and with a higher renewable content, than power supply provided by PSE&G. This program is named the Sustainable Essex Alliance Renewable Government Energy Aggregation (“SEA R-GEA”). The contract awarded to Direct Energy Services under Round 1 of the SEA R-GEA program, which provided enhanced renewable energy content and resulted in power supply cost savings for participating residents, recently expired in December 2020. Residents who previously received supply under the SEA program were recently transitioned back to PSE&G electric supply.

For Round 2 of the SEA R-GEA program, the towns of Livingston and Glen Rock were added to the group to create additional joint purchasing power. We are pleased to inform you that, as a result of a recent competitive bid process, a contract for Round 2 of the SEA R-GEA program was awarded to the low bidder, Energy Harbor, LLC, for a 17-month contract beginning in April 2021 for residents of Montclair as well as residents of the other participating NJ municipalities listed above, who are located in PSE&G territory. The new contract with Energy Harbor will provide electric supply that has nearly double the renewable content of standard energy supply currently provided by PSE&G, at a price of \$0.12696/kWh. As compared to the PSE&G price that fluctuates monthly, the \$.12696/kWh price will remain steady and the contract is projected to save the typical participating resident about \$20 over the 17-month contract term, with a substantially higher renewable energy content, and with no change to the level of service. Residents also have the ability to ‘OPT-UP’ to a 100% renewable energy product at a modest price premium. If you wish to select the voluntary 100% renewable energy product option, please call Energy Harbor at: 1-866-636-3749.

If you do not wish to participate in the SEA R-GEA program for any reason, you are welcome to opt-out by following the instructions provided in the Program Summary on the reverse side of this Notice. We also posted SEA R-GEA program information on the Township’s website and, when municipal offices re-open, program documents may be reviewed in-person by visiting the Office of the Municipal Clerk located at 205 Clairmont Ave. If you do not opt-out of the SEA R-GEA program, you will also receive a notification from PSE&G in March that your account is being enrolled with the new SEA R-GEA supplier, Energy Harbor, effective with the April 2021 meter read.

For residents seeking additional information, we have scheduled a **Public Information Session from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on February 23, 2021**. The Township’s energy consultant, Gabel Associates, will make a brief presentation and answer questions. In order to assure the public’s safety, the Session will be conducted electronically rather than in-person, using the same call-in instructions that are being employed for the Township Council meetings. See www.montclairnjusa.org for call in information. Call in information is also listed here: **Access Code: 179 062 5219; Passcode: SEAc223!!; Dial-In: 1-408-418-9388 US Toll; Webex: <https://montclairnj.webex.com/montclairnj/onstage/g.php?MTID=ecc4113c1acbf77fb236e9338b7ef9c6c>**

If you have questions about the program and are unable to attend the Public Session, you can reach out directly via telephone or email to the Township’s energy consultant, Gabel Associates, or to Energy Harbor who have the expertise and resources to help you and whose contact information is provide in the enclosed program materials.

The energy aggregation program is only for the energy supply portion of your electric service. The delivery portion will continue to be provided by PSE&G at regulated rates and PSE&G will continue to provide all emergency and safety services. PSE&G will also continue to provide customer services such as meter readings, billing and service restoration. If you are on a PSE&G budget billing plan, you will continue to receive that service. ***Please take the time to read the enclosed materials and familiarize yourself with this program.***

Please note: If you do not opt-out, you will receive a notice from PSE&G in approximately 30-45 days confirming your switch to Energy Harbor. Again, NO ACTION is required in order to participate in the SEA R-GEA program.

Sustainable Essex Alliance (SEA) Program Summary

Energy Harbor, LLC Information:	Energy Harbor, LLC (BPU License # ESL-0246) Toll Free Telephone Number: 1-866-636-3749 Website: https://energyharbor.com/en/community-programs/find-your-program Address: 168 East Market Street, Akron, Ohio 44308 Email Address: firstchoice@energyharbor.com
Price Structure:	Non-Variable Price ¹
Generation/Supply Price:	\$0.12696 per kilowatt-hour (kWh)
Statement Regarding Savings:	The contract price is below the current average PSE&G Basic Generation Service (“BGS”) tariff price of about \$0.129/kWh. Savings, while not guaranteed, are projected to be about \$20 over the contract term. Actual savings will vary monthly due to fluctuations in PSE&G’s net price-to-compare. For budget billing details, see footnote below ²
Amount of Time Required to Change Back to Default Service or Another TPS:	The request to switch out of the SEA R-GEA program will become effective on the next available meter read date in accordance with processes implemented by PSE&G
Incentives:	Baseline Power Product (\$0.12696/kWh): 40% renewable energy content. Voluntary ‘OPT-UP’ Power Product (\$0.13437/kWh): 100% renewable energy content (to ‘OPT-UP’ to the 100% renewable product, call 1-866-636-3749 by 03/07/21).
Right to Opt Out / Rescind / Cancel:	You will be automatically enrolled in the SEA R-GEA program unless you submit an ‘opt-out’ request during the 30-day opt-out period, which ends March 7, 2021. If you choose to ‘opt out’, please sign and return the enclosed postage-paid card, or call Energy Harbor toll-free at 1-866-636-3749 by March 7, 2021. If you do not opt out by March 7 you will be enrolled; however, you may still leave the SEA R-GEA program at any time thereafter <i>You may also opt out through the Township’s Energy Consultant at www.gabelassociates.com/GEA or sea-info@gabelassociates.com.</i>
Program Start Date:	Service will begin with your April 2021 meter read date
Program Term/Length:	17 months, until your September 2022 meter read date
Cancellation/Early Termination Fees:	None. You can opt out at any time, with no penalty or cancellation fee
Renewal Terms:	No automatic roll-over or renewal. If a new contract is awarded by the Township, you will be notified, provided a new Program Summary, and will again be given the opportunity to participate in the program or opt out. If no new contract is awarded by the Township, program participants will be returned to PSE&G supply service in September 2022
PSE&G Contact Information:	Toll-Free Telephone Number: 800-436-PSEG (7734)

Para obtener esta información en Español por favor llame a este numero 1-866-636-3749;

Residents receiving this notice who are outside the geographic boundaries of Montclair, please contact Energy Harbor to be removed from the program. Montclair residents who do not receive this notice are permitted to join the program any time.

¹ Supplier cannot vary prices monthly or adjust prices for changed market conditions, or change the rate after an initial ‘teaser’ period. The price will remain unchanged for the full contract term. The only exception is a one-time contract price adjustment resulting from a change in law that also affects the cost of power supply provided by PSE&G, in which case the contract price adjustment will not adversely impact the level of savings as compared to the PSE&G tariff price for power supply.

² Equal payment plans (EPP) will be provided to residents who currently have EPP billing with PSE&G. Under budget billing service, Energy Harbor will calculate your budgeted amount based on your average electric usage over the prior 12 months. Periodically, Energy Harbor will examine your budget and may adjust to more closely match your usage from the previous year. Energy Harbor will conduct a final true-up at the end of the contract - or upon your leaving the program should you ‘opt-out’ before the end of the 17-month term - to reconcile between the amount of electricity actually used and the amount paid under the plan. The new budget amount may vary from the level of your current budget payment. You will continue to receive a leveled amount from PSE&G for delivery service, and you may experience true-ups with PSE&G during the contract.



What is Community Energy Aggregation?

Community Energy Aggregation is a program permitted under New Jersey State law that allows municipalities to pool together residents to conduct a bid for power supply from third-party suppliers, with the aim of obtaining a power supply price that is lower in price, and/or has more renewable energy 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. Montclair, along with neighboring Essex County municipalities Glen Ridge, Livingston, Maplewood, South Orange and Verona, as well as the Borough of Glen Rock in Bergen County, have joined together into a single purchasing cooperative, which has been named the Sustainable Essex Alliance (SEA).

Has this type of program been implemented previously?

Yes. Beginning in 2012, a growing number of NJ municipalities implemented Community Energy Aggregation programs. In order to address concerns regarding air quality and climate change, over the past several years the programs increasingly focused on obtaining power supply with greater renewable energy content and would also provide a cost savings to consumers. The original five municipalities in the SEA (Montclair, Glen Ridge, Maplewood, South Orange and Verona) entered into a contract for Round 1 of the SEA program which began in July 2019 and recently expired in December 2020. That contract provided power supply containing enhanced renewable energy content as well as cost savings for participating residents. For Round 2 of the program, the SEA added two municipalities, Livingston and Glen Rock, in order to create additional joint purchasing power.

Who has been selected as the SEA program supplier for Round 2 of the program?

The SEA recently completed a competitive procurement process to solicit proposals from competing suppliers. Energy Harbor submitted the lowest proposed price in the public, competitive procurement process, and was selected by the SEA as the supplier for Round 2 of the SEA program. Energy Harbor, an electric power supplier licensed by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, submitted the lowest proposed price and was selected as the supplier for Round 2 of the SEA program. Energy Harbor serves tens of thousands of residential customers in New Jersey, and hundreds of thousands nationwide through energy aggregation programs like the SEA.

When does the program with Energy Harbor begin?

Service will begin with the April 2021 meter read date and will continue for 17 months, until September 2022.

How does the SEA program contract price compare to the PSE&G tariff price for electricity supply?

The price of \$0.12696 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) is below the current average PSE&G Basic Generation Service tariff price for power supply. The net PSE&G Price to Compare can fluctuate on a monthly basis, therefore savings can vary by month. The SEA program contract sets a fixed price. While, due to fluctuations in the PSE&G price the precise savings cannot be guaranteed, the typical Montclair resident and residents in other SEA-participating municipalities are projected to save about \$20 over the full contract as compared to the average PSE&G tariff Price to Compare over the same period. Additionally, **the energy supply procured through the SEA program contains 40% renewable energy content** – nearly double the amount of renewable energy content provided by PSE&G's default energy supply.

What makes the SEA electricity content renewable?

The additional renewable energy content residents will receive with the SEA program consists of the following: (1) the renewable energy that all NJ suppliers are required to supply based on New Jersey' Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) and (2) an additional 16.5% of RPS-compliant PJM Class I Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs). PJM Class I RECs are sourced mainly from wind power in our region. The voluntary 100% 'OPT-UP' product consists of approximately an additional 60% RPS-compliant PJM Class I RECs above the base SEA product. For more information about RECs, NJ's Renewable Portfolio Standards and other terms in this FAQ, go to <https://www.montclairnjusa.org>.

Can I receive 100% renewable energy through the SEA program? And what is the deadline to "OPT-UP"?

Yes. **Individual residents can voluntarily "OPT-UP" to a high quality PJM Class-I based 100% renewable energy product**, at a slightly higher price of \$0.13437/kWh, or approximately \$6 a month on average more than the default baseline 40% renewable energy product under the SEA program. This "OPT-UP" is entirely voluntary but, if you wish to do so, you must 'OPT-UP' by March 7, 2021. ***Please note, while residents will always retain the right to opt-out of the SEA program at***

any time without fees, residents interested in the 100% renewable option must “OPT-UP” within the initial 30-day window that ends March 7, 2021. To “OPT-UP”, call the supplier, Energy Harbor, at: 866-636-3749.

Does the SEA contract 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 SEA 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 PSE&G bill includes separate charges for delivery service and for power supply service. PSE&G will still provide delivery service and read your meter, and you will still receive a single bill from PSE&G which will continue to include the PSE&G delivery charges. Power supply charges for SEA’s chosen supplier, Energy Harbor, will appear as a separate line item on your PSE&G bill. Even if you participate in the program, PSE&G will still be responsible for service reliability and restoration.

Is participation mandatory or am I able to Opt Out?

Participation is never mandatory. Residents who do not currently have a third-party supply contract (i.e., take power supply service from PSE&G under the utility’s Basic Generation Service tariff) or who were recent participants in the SEA Round 1 program are included in the initial eligibility pool. However, residents can opt out of the SEA program by mail, phone or electronically using the information in the Program Summary. If you opt out within the 30-day opt-out period (by March 7, 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.

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 PSE&G 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. Neither Energy Harbor, nor the Township will solicit residential participation via door-to-door means. 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 SEA’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. Residents who receive such unsolicited telephonic communications representing themselves as part of the Township’s program are encouraged to report such to Gabel Associates and Energy Harbor.

Whom do I call if there is a power outage?

PSE&G will still provide delivery service. If the lights go out, you would still call PSE&G at 1-800-436-7734.

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

Yes. If you currently have a budget billing plan with PSE&G, the selected supplier is required to provide you with an equal payment plan for your power supply charges. PSE&G 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 PSE&G bill) for power supply. You may experience a “true-up” on your bill from PSE&G prior to enrollment, Energy Harbor may periodically adjust your levelized amount based upon your usage, and you’ll receive a final true-up on your last bill with Energy Harbor to account for any differences between what you paid for along the way and the value of electricity actually used over the term.

What happens at the end of the SEA’s contract with the supplier?

There is no automatic rollover. If the SEA 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 SEA discontinues the program, you will simply be returned to PSE&G power supply at the PSE&G 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.montclairnjusa.org>.