

## Frequently Asked Questions about Westchester Power

### **Q: What is the Westchester Power Community Energy Program?**

A: Westchester Power purchases electricity in bulk for consumers in participating Westchester communities. Its goal is to increase the use of clean renewable electricity in a cost-effective, consumer-friendly way. Sustainable Westchester, a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) consortium of Westchester County local governments administers the program on behalf of participating municipalities.

### **Q: What are the benefits of Westchester Power?**

A: It provides residents and small businesses with a municipally vetted and selected default electricity supply alternative to confusing private solicitations. The consumer-friendly structure offers stable fixed rates, insurance against fluctuating energy pricing and a no-contract, no-fees format. However, **savings cannot be guaranteed** since utility rates are variable and not known in advance.

### **Q: Does Westchester Power replace my utility?**

A: The program is for electricity supply only. Your existing utility (Con Edison or NYSEG) will continue to deliver your power, maintain lines, and respond to service outages. You have always paid for supply in your utility bill, but now you will see separate lines for the electricity **supply** (via Westchester Power's supplier) and electricity **delivery** (via Con Edison or NYSEG).

### **Q: How does Westchester Power procure energy?**

A: Westchester Power administers a competitive bidding process, soliciting responses from suppliers registered with New York State and the utility.

### **Q: How can I be sure Westchester Power will provide energy reliably?**

A: The program is regulated by the Public Service Commission and the "grid operator" (called NYISO) ensures that the proper power is flowing at all times. In addition, the utility remains the "provider of last resort," which means they are obligated to serve any customers whose supplier has failed to buy the requisite power for those customers.

### **Q: I'm with an ESCO now - can I switch to Westchester Power?**

A: Yes, but if you are already signed up with an ESCO, check your existing contract to see when it expires and what (if any) penalties apply for early termination.

### **Q: Why is the program opt-out?**

A: The Public Service Commission rules establish "community choice aggregation" programs, such as Westchester Power, as the default supply for participating municipalities. As with traditional utility supply, you are enrolled if you take no action, but you can switch supply options, switch back to utility supply, or to a private ESCO at any time without cancellation charges.

### **Q: What is the Westchester Power 100% renewable supply?**

A: The 100% renewable power supply product consists of delivered power matched with NY State hydropower Renewable Energy Certificates ("RECs"). The majority of participating municipalities have chosen the 100% renewable power supply product as the default option, helping reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate climate change.

Visit [sustainablewestchester.org/wp/municipal-contacts/](https://sustainablewestchester.org/wp/municipal-contacts/) for your community's CCA liaison.