

Westchester Power

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Westchester Power?

Westchester Power is a program that enables participating Westchester communities to join together and purchase electricity supply in bulk. Aggregating consumers on a large scale creates the buying power necessary to dictate the terms of our energy purchasing. Westchester Power has secured low fixed electric supply rates for [27 Westchester municipalities](#), representing about 100,000 households and small businesses. In **Con Ed** territory, these rates are guaranteed through December, 2020. The **NYSEG** renewal contract was just renewed for May, 2019 and these rates are guaranteed through November, 2020.

Am I within Westchester Power's service area?

Westchester Power is currently available in [27 Westchester County municipalities](#). If your city, town or village is not participating, please contact your elected officials and tell them you want Westchester Power in your community.

Who administers Westchester Power?

Westchester Power is a partnership program of Sustainable Westchester and participating Westchester County municipalities. Sustainable Westchester is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) consortium of Westchester County local governments. Sustainable Westchester has been authorized by the New York State Public Service Commission ("Order Granting Petition in Part" in Case 14-M-0564, issued February 26, 2015) to act as the manager, coordinator, and

administrator of Westchester Power on behalf of any of its member municipalities.

Does Westchester Power replace my utility?

No. Your existing utility will continue to deliver reliable power, maintain power lines, and respond to service outages. They will still provide the same customer service to all residents regardless of whether they are in the program. They are required by law to do so. Customers will still receive only one bill each month and it will still come directly from ConEd or NYSEG. The new bill will reflect the change in supplier and **new supply rate**.

How does Westchester Power procure power?

Westchester Power administered a competitive bidding process, soliciting responses from all registered New York suppliers. Con Edison Solutions was awarded the supply contract for the original 17 Con Ed communities, and Constellation New Energy was awarded the contract for original 4 NYSEG communities. Rates differ by utility territory and supply mix.

In December, 2016 Constellation New Energy purchased Con Edison Solutions and became the supplier for both the Con Edison and NYSEG communities. Constellation offered the best bid for the 2019 Con Edison territory renewal and remains the supplier for the now 23 Con Edison communities.

NYSEG territory now includes 5 communities and the program was renewed at May 1, 2019 with a new supplier, Direct Energy Services.

(Note the the Town of Bedford encompasses both Con Edison and NYSEG utility territories.)

Where does Westchester Power get its energy from?

The Standard supply mix is likely be similar to the current utility mix — mostly natural gas, nuclear, and hydro generated primarily in New York, New England, Mid-Atlantic, and Eastern Canada. The 100% Renewable Energy supply must be only wind, solar, or hydro power and is provided through the procurement of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs). The 2016-2019 NYSEG contract renewable supply option is national wind power certified via the [Green-e](#) REC system. The 2019-2020 Con Ed and NYSEG contracts renewable option is hydro power RECs secured through the New York State NYGATS tracking system. [Click here](#) for more information about NYS Hydro Power.

How is Westchester Power different from the energy companies who call me all the time urging me to sign up with them?

There are over 100 ESCO's operating in NY State. Many ESCO's promise lower rates and offer novel products such as a "green mix" or carbon offset programs for environmentally conscious consumers. Several ESCOs have been guilty, however, of predatory business practices (i.e. teaser rates that spike over time, so-called "slamming" — switching customers without their consent, bait-and-switch renewable products). In fact, only about 20% of Westchester County residents and small businesses have chosen to buy their electric supply from an ESCO rather than stay with the utility.

Westchester Power, on the other hand, uses the power of aggregation to create a good price and one that can guarantee 100% renewable energy. [More information on how Westchester Power compares to ESCOs.](#)

How can I be sure Westchester Power will provide energy consistently?

Electricity is a highly regulated industry and there are many safeguards against service interruption from supplier error. There is a “grid operator” (NYISO) that monitors the grid at the system level to ensure 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.

Will I save money by participating in Westchester Power?

Westchester Power Rates are fixed at a price *lower than the average rate for Con Ed and NYSEG in 2015*, and have outperformed the two utilities so far (see “**Rates So Far**”). The **2019 renewal rates** secured for customers in **Con Ed** territory are lower than the weighted average of **Con Ed** supply rate from July 2017-July 2018, and remain lower than the **2015** average. The **2019 renewal rates** secured for customers in **NYSEG** territory are lower than the weighted average of **NYSEG** supply rate from November 2016-October 2018.

While our large customer base assures us of attracting competitive bids from suppliers, it is the nature of a fixed price contract that there is no guarantee that Westchester Power rates will be lower in any given month, or save money through the end of the contract period.

Why was I enrolled in Westchester Power?

Until Now, ConEd and NYSEG have been the default power providers to customers in Westchester County, as determined by the State, and customers were automatically opted in to one of those utilities. Municipalities participating in Westchester Power have each passed a law or ordinance that localizes the authority to designate a default supplier, resulting in greater competition and more options for consumers. Consumers living in one of the **27 participating municipalities** may still freely choose another competitive supplier or opt out back to the utility if they choose.



*It's easy to change your energy choice
just click your billing utility*



How do I know if I'm in the program?

Here's what you will see on your bill if you are enrolled in the Westchester Power Program:

Con Ed: If you are in Con Ed territory, on page 1 under "Your billing summary" you will see a line entry for Esco electricity supply charges. This is your supply charge from Constellation.

Your billing summary as of Oct 16, 2019

Your previous charges and payments

Total charges from your last bill	\$8.50
Payments through Oct 11, thank you	-\$8.50
Remaining balance	None

Your new charges - details start on page 2

Billing period: Sep 13, 2019 to Oct 11, 2019

Esco electricity supply charges - for 28 days	\$70.54
Con Edison electricity charges	\$139.08
Gas charges - for 28 days	\$50.38
Adjustments	-\$246.50
Total new charges	\$13.50

Total amount due **\$13.50**

Direct Payment Plan - The amount of \$13.50 will be automatically deducted from your bank on Oct 28, 2019.

On the last page of your bill, “Your electricity supply detail”, you will see the CCA supplier:

Your electricity supply detail

Your electricity supplier
 CONSTELLATION NEW ENERGY, INC. ←
 531 FIFTH AVENUE
 NEW YORK NY 10176
 For information call: 1-888-825-0700

Your supplier account #: 7941105

► **Your electricity supply charges**
 30 day billing period from Dec 17, 2018 to Jan 16, 2019
 kWh used 809

Customer charge	\$0.00
Supply cost @8.0800c per kWh	\$65.37
Sales tax @3.0000%	\$1.96

Total electricity supply charges **\$67.33**

Additionally on page 3, “MESSAGES from your electricity ESCO” You will see **Westchester Power**

MESSAGES from your electricity ESCO

NEW! Login to My Account at coned.com for a new ESCO bill comparison tool!

Your community participates in the **Westchester Power** aggregated electricity purchasing program administered by Sustainable Westchester and benefits from competitive fixed rates and renewable energy options from Constellation. Thanks for helping to build a clean energy future for Westchester! Visit westchesterpower.org or call our Mount Kisco office at (914) 242-4725 for more information about this and other Sustainable Westchester programs.

NYSEG: If you are in NYSEG territory, on page 1 under “Consolidated Account Summary” you will see “DIRECT ENERGY SERVICES LLC”

Consolidated Account Summary

Previous invoice	\$212.04
Payments received as of 10/17/19	-212.04
Balance forward	0.00
NYSEG energy charges	42.95
DIRECT ENERGY SERVICES LLC Chgs ←	37.98

Payment due upon receipt. \$80.93

To avoid a 1.5% late payment charge, please ensure payment is received by the date displayed below.

And on page 5 “Electricity Supply Detail”, “DIRECT ENERGY SERVICES LLC”



What do I have to do to participate?

Residential and small commercial (non-demand charge) customers located in participating municipalities that currently receive electric supply from ConEd or NYSEG are automatically enrolled. Residents or small businesses in participating municipalities who are presently under contract with a third party electricity supplier (ESCO) are not automatically enrolled. If you are already signed up with an ESCO, but want to switch to Westchester Power, you should look at the terms of your existing contract to see when it expires and what (if any) penalties apply for early termination. If you choose to terminate your contract with the ESCO, you can then Opt In to join the program.



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I just moved to a new address and I want to establish service. How do I sign up?

Once you have your utility service set up, you can opt in to Westchester Power for your supply.



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If I have solar panels, am I still part of Westchester Power?

If you have rooftop or ground-mounted solar panels, you will be automatically enrolled in Westchester Power just like all other residents and small businesses in participating municipalities. You will continue to receive net metering credits at the retail rate from Con Ed/NYSEG. If you use more power than your solar panels generate, that power will come from Westchester Power. Like all other residents and small businesses, you will have the option to Opt Up to 100% renewable for this power.



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Can I buy clean power through Westchester Power?

Yes. In fact, 24 of the **27 participating municipalities** have set 100% Renewable Energy supply as the default option for their residents and small businesses. This product can be a mix of solar, wind, and hydro, and is backed by **Green-e** certificates. If you live in one of these municipalities, you will automatically receive 100% Renewable Energy supply. Any eligible resident or small business in the remaining communities can freely choose 100% Renewable Energy by changing your supply option.



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What is the 100% Renewable Energy Option?

Changing your supply option to 100% renewable means that 100% of the electric power you buy comes from clean, renewable sources. *No coal. No gas. No oil. No nuclear.* It is clean energy, plain and simple. No fossil fuels. As a consequence, greenhouse gas emissions are dramatically reduced. We can celebrate our contribution to cleaner air and cleaner water. It is the right choice for our planet, for future generations, for all who care about carbon and methane pollution.

100% Renewable Energy must be only wind, solar, or hydro power and is provided through the procurement of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs). The 2016-2018 Con Ed and the 2016-2019 NYSEG contract renewable supply option was national wind power certified via the **Green-e** REC system. The 2019-2020 Con Ed and NYSEG contract renewable option is hydro power RECs secured through the New York State NYGATS tracking system.



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How can I be sure Westchester Power is procuring 100% Renewable Energy on my behalf?

Westchester Power requires all of the renewable supply to be Green-e certified. The Green-e certification program verifies the source and location of the generation associated with purchased renewable energy credits, ensures there is no double-counting or fraud, and regularly produces verification reports to consumers.

How much does it cost to Change Supply Option to 100% Renewable Energy?

Changing your supply option to 100% renewable will save you money. Rates for the 100% renewable option are lower than the 12-month average for 2015 for Con Ed and NYSEG. The **2019 100 % Renewable rates** secured for customers in **Con Ed** territory are lower than the weighted average of **Con Ed** supply rate from July 2017-July 2018, and remain lower than the **2015** average. The **2019 100% Renewable rates** secured for customers in **NYSEG** territory are lower than the weighted average of **NYSEG** supply rate from November, 2016-October, 2018. [Learn more.](#)

Over time, with anticipated rebates for reduced peak demand, greater supplies of community solar and more energy efficiency, we expect that the rates for 100% renewable be even lower.

Why Change Supply Option to 100% Renewable Energy?

Changing your supply option to 100% renewable means 100% of the power you buy comes from clean renewable sources (wind, solar, hydro). By selecting the 100% Renewable option, residents and small business customers are helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and accelerate the use of renewable energy. Additionally, you will have an opportunity to participate in the peak demand reduction initiatives and local shared renewables Westchester Power hopes to rollout in the near future.



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I was automatically signed up for the default mix, but now want to change my supply option to the 100% Renewable Energy option. Is it too late?

No, it is not too late. You may change your supply option for 100% Renewable Energy at any time with no penalties. Likewise, if you were defaulted into the 100% Renewable Energy mix and would like to change supply option to Basic mix, you may do so at any time with no penalties.



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What if I don't want to participate?

It is absolutely your choice. Every household and small business that currently receives their energy supply from Con Edison or NYSEG can opt out at any time.



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Is there a fee for opting out of Westchester Power?

No, there is never a fee or penalty for opting out.

Are there time constraints on my ability to opt out?

No. You are free to opt out at any time with no penalties whatsoever.



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If I opt out after the contract has taken effect, how will that affect my service?

Service will not be interrupted whatsoever. The account will be transferred back to the utility at the end of the following billing period.

Can I return to Westchester Power after I opt out?

Yes, you can Opt in at any time and take advantage of the fixed program rate.



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