



SUSTAINABLE WESTCHESTER

1. WHAT IS WESTCHESTER POWER?

Westchester Power, a program of Sustainable Westchester, enables participating Westchester communities to join together to purchase electricity supply in bulk. Westchester Power offers two power options: 100% renewable NYS hydropower and standard, which is a mix of fossil fuels and renewable energy.

2. WHAT IS THE BENEFIT OF THE PROGRAM?

The program offers access to affordable clean, renewable power through a nonprofit program vetted by your municipality. The fixed-rate program offers cost control over fluctuating utility supply rates. It's a safe and easy way for municipal residents and small businesses participate in renewable energy supply options without having to navigate the confusing world of Energy Service Companies (ESCOs).

3. DOES IT REPLACE MY CURRENT UTILITY?

No, your existing utility (Con Ed/NYSEG) will continue to deliver your power, maintain lines, and respond to service outages. Your utility is required by law to provide the same customer service to all residents regardless of enrollment in this program. You will receive only one bill from Con Ed/NYSEG on it; you will see separate lines for the electricity **supply** (via Westchester Power's ESCO supplier) and electricity **delivery** (via Con Ed/NYSEG).

4. WILL I SAVE MONEY?

The program **FIXED RATES** provide rate protection and insurance against utility rate spikes as well as higher energy rates from Con Ed/NYSEG, which may result from the volatility and unpredictable nature of energy trading prices. However, **savings cannot be guaranteed**, and can only be reasonably assessed over the term of the contract or period of individual participation, not on a short-term basis. In any given month, Con Ed/NYSEG rates can be higher or lower than our fixed rate.

5. WHY WAS I ENROLLED?

Your municipality has designated Westchester Power as the default power in your town to leverage its buying power in order to access the benefits noted above and help increase the amount of renewable electricity on the grid. The program's opt-out structure follows the rules set out by the NYS Public Service Commission. Prior to enrollment, all residents receive direct mail communication and are provided opt-out instructions. **You are free to opt-out at any time and choose another supplier or revert to Con Ed/NYSEG without any fees or cancellation charges.**

Sustainable Westchester is a consortium of Westchester County member municipalities that facilitates effective collaboration of environmental sustainability initiatives. Sustainable Westchester brings cutting-edge, first-to-market innovation and resource conservation to create socially responsible, environmentally and economically sound solutions with the goal of creating healthy, vibrant and sustainable communities.

Your participation
has made a
positive impact

SINCE 2016, WE HAVE OFFSET
660,000 METRIC TONS OF
CARBON DIOXIDE EQUIVALENT TO:



142,600

cars taken off the road
for 1 year

OR



10.9 million

tree seedlings
grown for 10 years

MORE

6. WHAT ARE THE CURRENT RATES?

Current fixed program rates are 7.96 cents/kWh (100% renewable) and 7.71 cents/kWh for standard supply, both less than the 2015 Con Ed average. In NYSEG utility areas the current fixed rate programs are 6.93 cents/kWh for 100% renewable and 6.61 cents/kWh for standard supply.

Con Ed/NYSEG variable rates have been at historic lows since the early in 2019 and as a result, residents have paid more during this period than they would have if they had been enrolled in the default utility supply.

Given that energy prices are dependent upon market factors, predicting what the prices will be in the coming months is not possible. We have seen rate spikes as high as 11 cents/kwh in the past. Specific to Con Ed, over the same period, we've seen increases of 15% in Con Ed rates for **delivery** of electricity. These higher delivery charges, along with general seasonal usage spikes, are significant contributors to the increases some residents are experiencing.

Starting January 1, 2021, we will have **new fixed rates** for 18 months in the **Con Ed area**. The 100% renewable energy rate will be 7.405 cents/kWh for residential customers and 7.1 cents/kWh for small commercial customers. For standard supply, residential customers will pay 6.749 cents/kWh, and small commercial customers will pay 6.445 cents/kWh. In the **NYSEG area**, starting December 1, 2020, we will have **new fixed rates** for 12 months. Both residential and small commercial customers will pay 7.19 cents/kWh for 100% renewable energy and 6.719 cents/kWh for standard supply.

It is also important to note that when comparing Westchester Power rates to the utility, it is something of an apples to oranges comparison as the utility used mixed (often nonrenewable and less expensive sources) whereas Westchester Power is 100% renewable supply. When comparing Westchester Power rates to other 100% renewable options, the rates are competitive and often among the lower in the marketplace.

7. HOW IS THIS DIFFERENT FROM AN ESCO?

Westchester Power is a nonprofit program (not a commercial endeavor) that has been vetted and sanctioned by your local elected officials and is part of a portfolio of community energy solutions. There are no contracts, teaser rates and surprise increases. You will never be subject to penalties for cancelation, slamming practices or phone call or door-to-door solicitation or scare tactics. Communication from us will include your municipalities seal.

8. HOW CAN I LEARN MORE OR HAVE MY SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ANSWERED?

Sustainable Westchester is a part of the community, and we stand behind our commitment to the program and its long-term benefits. If you have questions or want further information, please give us a call, we will happily spend as much time as you need.

LOOKING TO
INCREASE
YOUR UTILITY
SAVINGS NOW?



SUSTAINABLE
WESTCHESTER
presents
COMMUNITY SOLAR

Enjoy the benefits of
"greener" energy with
your community

- Up to 10% guaranteed savings on your bill's solar credit
- No panels on your home
- No upfront installation costs
- No fee to join or cancel
- Takes 5 minutes to join

Visit
www.sustainablewestchester.org/solar



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