



Sustainable Essex Alliance Community Energy Aggregation Frequently Asked Questions



What is Community Energy Aggregation?

Community Energy Aggregation is a program that allows municipalities to pool together residents and conduct a bid for power supply from third-party suppliers, with the aim of obtaining a power supply price that is cheaper, and/or has more renewable energy than the power supplied by the electric utility. Permitted under New Jersey State law for 17 years, 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. **The Borough of Glen Rock has joined with the municipalities of Glen Ridge, Livingston, Maplewood, Montclair, South Orange, and Verona, to form a single purchasing cooperative, which has been named the Sustainable Essex Alliance (SEA).**

Has this type of program been implemented previously?

Yes. Since 2012, a growing number of NJ municipalities have implemented Community Energy Aggregation programs in order to address concerns regarding air quality and climate change. These programs have recently been focused on obtaining power supply with enhanced renewable energy content, in addition to cost savings. In 2019, the Borough of Glen Rock entered into its first Community Energy Aggregation program (named the DEAL). The Borough awarded a contract under the DEAL program that provided enhanced renewable energy content in the electric supply to participating Borough residents. That contract recently expired in December 2020. The Borough has now joined with six other municipalities, under a Community Energy Aggregation program, the SEA program, to obtain even greater joint purchasing power in order to continue to offer increased renewable energy content at a price close to or less than the current average PSE&G Basic Generation Service tariff price for power supply.

Who has been selected as the SEA program supplier?

Following a competitive public bid process which included solicited proposals from competing suppliers, the SEA selected **Energy Harbor**, which submitted the lowest proposed price, as the supplier for the next round of the SEA program. Energy Harbor is an electric power supplier licensed by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. It currently 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. Because the net PSE&G price-to-compare fluctuates on a monthly basis, as compared to the fixed priced for the SEA program contract, the savings can vary by month. While a specific level of savings cannot be guaranteed, and actual savings will vary month-to-month, the typical resident in Glen Rock and the other SEA-participating municipalities is still projected to save over the full contract as compared to the average PSE&G tariff price-to-compare over that 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 default energy supply!

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. While modestly higher than the PSE&G rate, the price for this 100% renewable product compares favorably to similar products available in the marketplace. 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.

What makes the SEA electricity content renewable?

The renewable energy content residents will receive consists of: 1) the renewable energy that all NJ suppliers are required to supply based on New Jersey's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS); and 2) an additional amount of RPS-compliant PJM Class I Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) to reach 40% renewable energy in total. PJM Class I RECs are sourced mainly from wind power in our region. The voluntary 100% 'OPT-UP' product consists of an additional 60% RPS-compliant PJM Class I RECs above the base SEA product. For more information about RECs, NJ's Renewable Portfolio Standard and other terms in this FAQ, go to <https://www.glenrocknj.net/sea>.

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 or who were recent participants in the DEAL 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. Residents who are already enrolled in a third-party supply contract or use solar are not automatically enrolled.

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 Borough 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 Borough, 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 Borough's program are encouraged to report such to Gabel Associates or Energy Harbor.

Who 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 monthly amount during the contract term if your electricity consumption totals vary significantly from your prior history. You will also receive a final "true-up" on your last bill with Energy Harbor to account for any net differences between what you paid for along the way under the budget plan and the value of electricity actually used over the contract term. If you wish at any time to find out where your budget 'true-up' balance stands, and to discuss possible adjustments to the monthly payment amount with Energy Harbor, their representatives can be reached at: 866-636-3749. For more information or if you have questions about this, please email Gabel Associates at sea-info@gabelassociates.com or Energy Harbor at firstchoice@energyharbor.com.

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 Borough's website at: <https://www.glenrocknj.net/sea>.