

HUNTERDON AREA ENERGY COOPERATIVE COMMUNITY ENERGY AGGREGATION PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Hunterdon Area Energy Cooperative? In 2018, the Borough of Califon, in conjunction with the Township of Bethlehem and the Town of Clinton, formed the Hunterdon Area Energy Cooperative (HAEC) and established a Community Energy Aggregation (CEA) program (also referred to as a Government Energy Aggregation program) for their residents. The CEA program allows municipalities to pool the energy usage of all residents within each municipality in an effort to find a lower rate on the electric supply portion of residents' bills. Currently there are 10 towns participating in the cooperative.

Who oversees the Hunterdon Area Energy Cooperative process? The program's Energy Agents, Commercial Utility Consultants and Concord Energy Services, report all activities related to administration and management of the Hunterdon Area Energy Cooperative to the NJ Board of Public Utilities, the Division of Rate Counsel, and the Department of Community Affairs.

Is my municipality the only one considering participation in an Energy Aggregation Program? No. Over 60 municipalities throughout the New Jersey are currently participating in CEA programs.

If the Borough of High Bridge joins the Hunterdon Area Energy Cooperative, does every resident have to be enrolled in this program? No. Residents can choose not to participate by opting out of the program. Instructions on how to opt-out of the program will be included in an information packet that will be mailed to all eligible residents - meaning residents who are not already enrolled in their own contract with a third-party supplier and solar customers - if a program begins in High Bridge.

Will residents be penalized if they choose not to participate in the program? No. If a resident does not want to be a part of the CEA program, they can stay with their utility's default energy providers or choose their own third party supplier. There will never be a fee or penalty associated with participation or non-participation in this program.

Who will read residents' meters during the program? JCP&L will still read residents' meters.

Are residents participating in the program going to receive more than one bill? No. Residents will continue to pay one bill directly to JCP&L.

If residents have solar panels, can they be a part of this program? At this time, suppliers are not able to process the net metering portion of solar credits, and we recommend that those residents opt-out of the program to avoid losing their credits.

What if a resident is already under contract with a third-party supplier? Residents who are under their own contract with a third-party supplier at the time a CEA program starts are NOT included in the program. They are welcome to opt-in to the CEA program and are encouraged to check with their third-party supplier regarding any early termination provisions before doing so.

Can a resident's information be sold to advertisers or energy companies? No. A resident's information, including their account number, is confidential and can only be used to set up the municipality's CEA program.

What information will residents receive about the program? When High Bridge offers a CEA program to their residents, eligible residents - meaning residents who are not enrolled in their own contract with a third-party supplier and solar customers - will receive an information packet which provides important details including the program rate, the term - how many months and the start and end dates, the name of the chosen supplier and their contact information, instructions on how to opt-out of the program, and dates, times and locations of education sessions about the program.