

Burlington County to Explain Energy Savings Plan

The Burlington County Bridge Commission is planning an extensive outreach to provide information and solicit input for the county's rollout of a government energy aggregation plan.

Energy aggregation plans allow the government to negotiate bulk-energy purchases from a third-party supplier, making electricity less expensive for individual residents.

The commission is providing the Burlington County Board of Freeholders with technical and professional support and services as part of the plan, which officials expect will net an average savings of about 9 percent for residential customers. Freeholder Director Bruce Garganio estimated a potential savings of \$100 a year for participating households.

The commission's first step will be an information session for municipal representatives July 10 at Burlington County College's Culinary Arts Center in Mount Holly. Commission spokeswoman Liz Verna said invitations will be sent out to clerks and administrators.

"The (session) will give them the opportunity to ask questions, and there will be a presentation with energy aggregation experts on hand," Verna said.

The commission recently passed a resolution to issue a request for proposals from energy aggregation consultants.

The program will be voluntary for municipalities and residents. When the county receives an aggregate rate, residents in participating towns will have the option to stay with the energy aggregation plan or opt out to either the standard rate or with a third-party provider.

The commission's outreach also will entail public information sessions in the form of "telephone town halls," in which residents can participate in a conference call.

Commission Chairman John Comegno said he was proud to partner with the freeholders.

"(The program) has the potential to offer savings like those realized by towns and other entities that participate in the commission's pooled loan and lease program, an initiative that has saved those participants nearly \$16 million. Only now, we're pooling energy instead of dollars," Comegno said.

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Concord Energy Services (CES) a division of Concord Engineering is representing the County as its Energy Agent and Energy Consultant to assist, oversee and manage the GEA program.