

Passaic County Still Saving on Energy

Passaic County Energy Cooperative Pricing System ID#184PCECPS (PCECPS) and the Passaic County Energy Regional Cooperative Pricing System ID#203PCERCPS have been providing members with substantial savings on energy since 2010.

The County passed a resolution in 2013 to establish a Community focused Government Energy Aggregation program ("GEA"). This program will enhance the existing Electric and Natural Gas Aggregation Cooperatives by expanding savings from county and municipal owned facilities to the residential and commercial community of participating municipalities.

The GEA program allows local governments to create large buying groups of residential and commercial electricity and natural gas in order to seek energy rates below the current utility default rates and achieve "true" savings over the current utility default rates. By aggregating several municipalities together, participants are able to achieve greater savings via a competitive bid process than they could have achieved individually.

Passaic County Freeholder Director Bruce James stated, "GEA adds significant value to the existing cooperative for municipal facilities' gas and electric aggregation and we are glad to pass additional savings onto our residents."

Member municipalities who join this enhanced program will obtain greater leverage, increase buying power and secure substantially better pricing and contract terms from energy suppliers. Currently, 12 municipalities in the County of Passaic, County of Sussex and County of Morris are participating. The 12 municipalities represent over 205,600 residents that are guaranteed to save money on their monthly electricity bills. The anticipated savings is **\$10 million dollars annually**.

Passaic County's bidding process will ensure that the awarded supplier's contract includes "price protection" and guarantees participants that the price will never be higher than the utility default rate or basic generation supply rate to compare. Energy load aggregation is one of the most effective means of achieving savings and mitigating risks in today's emerging power markets. The challenge lies in finding a suitable cooperative partner and a NJBPU-licensed Energy Aggregator specialist capable of analyzing the load data, developing and administering the RFB process, and providing ongoing management and monitoring services on behalf of the cooperative. Purchasing energy in the competitive market requires expertise in energy commodities and market dynamics.

Local governments benefit when they select energy agents who have a keen understanding of the purchase and sale of retail electricity and natural gas to end users in both regulated and deregulated markets. Concord Energy Services, a division of Concord Engineering is Passaic's energy consultant and program manager for the cooperative programs. Concord is providing energy advisory consulting services for the program at no cost to the county or tax payers, and will insure 100% Price Protection and Guaranteed Savings for the Government Energy Aggregation Program.