

City of Rye Public Outreach Record

The following tables document the public outreach and press coverage that the City of Rye and Sustainable Westchester have been engaged in since the inception of the CCA, with an increased focus on the past two months, September 2018 - November 2018. The scope of public education and outreach includes board actions, presentations at board meetings, public hearings, information sessions, online and in-print materials on the CCA, and various county-wide and localized press coverage.

Public Education and Outreach

EVENT TYPE	DESCRIPTION	ATTENDANCE	DATE	TIME
CCA Presentation at the Rye Library	Home energy efficiency workshop included Westchester Power presentation with full overview of program.	Approximately 40 attendees	4/1/2017	3:00 PM
Presentation at City Council Meeting	Provided information on what CCA is, including program structure, opting in and out, green power, and steps to entry	Approx 30 in audience; televised	9/13/2017	8:00 PM
CCA Presentation at the Rye Library	Information on what CCA is, programs structure, CCA's relation to utility & ESCOs, how to read your bill, green power	Approx 40; televised; video footage posted online	3/19/2018	6:30 PM
Presentation at City Council Meeting	Information on energy system, CCA structure, energy supply options, RECs, price structure, WP performance thus far (financial & carbon mitigation),	Approx 20 in audience; televised; video footage posted to web	9/12/2018	9:00 PM
Presentation at City Council Meeting and Consideration to Set Public Hearing on CCA Enabling Law	Provided information on CCA structure, opting in and out of the program, switching between supply options, what changes and what remains the same under CCA, customer service, relationship to ESCOs	Approx 30 in audience; televised; video footage posted to web	9/26/2018	7:30 PM

Presentation at Library	Introduction to CCA, how it works, enrollment process, how to opt out/switch supply, current rates, programwide savings (financial & carbon mitigation), explanation about discussions with City and timeline, bill basics	Approx 5 in audience; televised; video footage posted to web	10/1/2018	6:00 PM
Presentation at Senior Center	Introduction to CCA, how it works, opt-out, enrollment process, current rates and new 2019 contract rates, explanation about discussions with City and timeline, bill basics	Approx 80	10/10/2018	1:00 PM
Notice of upcoming Public Hearing on CCA Enabling Law	Council gave notice of the new public hearing date, 11/7/18	Approx 30 people in audience; televised; video footage posted to web	10/17/2018	8:00 PM
Public Hearing on CCA Enabling Law	City held public hearing to adopt the CCA enabling law	Approx 5 in audience; televised; video footage posted to web	11/7/2018	10:00 PM

Press Coverage

PRESS TYPE	PUBLICATION	ARTICLE TITLE/ DESCRIPTION	WEB LINK	DATE
Local web posting	Rye Patch	State Lets Westchester Towns Buy Their Own Power	https://rye.dailyvoice.com/business/state-lets-westchester-towns-buy-their-own-power/522599/	2/27/2015
Area press	LoHud	Many Westchester Power Bills Will Soon Be Fixed-Rate	http://www.lohud.com/story/news/local/2016/04/13/customer-s-receive-letters-new-	4/13/16

			electricity-program/82973006/	
Area press	LoHud	Westchester Communities Join to Seek Lower Energy Bills	http://www.lohud.com/story/news/local/westchester/2015/05/16/community-choice-aggregation-energy-savings/27443009/	5/16/2016
County-wide press	Westchester Business Journal	Illuminating Information on Electric Service	Print	2/27/2017
County-wide press	Press Release via PR Web	Westchester Power Launches "emPowering Green Energy"	http://www.prweb.com/releases/2017/04/prweb14199968.htm	4/3/2017
Area press	The Examiner News	Know Your Neighbor: Dan Welsh, Program Director, Westchester Power	Print	4/18/2017
County-wide press	Westchester Magazine	Westchester Power Helps the County Go Green with Expansive Program	http://www.westchestermagazine.com/Blogs/914INC-Incoming/April-2017/Westchester-Power-Expansive-Program/	4/25/2017
County-wide press	Westchester Business Journal	Westchester County Joins Sustainable Westchester Consortium	https://westfaironline.com/89687/westchester-county-joins-sustainable-westchester-consortium/	5/23/2017
County-wide press	Westchester Business Journal	Westchester Joins Energy Alliance	http://www.westchesterpowers.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/EnergyAlliance_WC_BJ.pdf	6/5/2017

County-wide press	Press Release via Westchester Power	Westchester Power Provides Tips to "Downsizing" Energy Bill Costs	http://www.westchesterpower.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/WP-Tips-on-Reducing-Energy-Costs-v-2-06-06-17.pdf	6/12/2017
County-wide press	Westchester Business Journal	One Year In, Westchester Power Pushes a New Era of Clean Energy	https://westfaironline.com/90137/one-year-in-westchester-power-pushes-a-new-era-of-clean-energy/	6/12/2017
Local web posting	City of Rye	Presentation Materials from City Council Meeting	http://www.egovlink.com/public_documents300/rye/unpublished_documents/INFORMATION/09-17/Westchester%20Power.pdf	9/13/2017
Local TV station; web posting	RyeTV	CCA Presentation at City Council Meeting	http://ryeny.swagit.com/play/09132017-971	9/13/2017
Local TV station; web posting	RyeTV	CCA Presentation at the Rye Library	http://www.ryetv.org/03292018-780	3/19/2018
Local web posting	Rye Sustainability Committee	CCA Presentation at Rye Library	http://www.ryesustainability.com/rsc-news-events/2018/3/28/community-choice-aggregation-presentation	3/20/18
Local TV station; web posting	RyeTV	CCA Presentation at City Council Meeting	http://ryeny.swagit.com/play/09132018-590	9/12/18
Local TV station; web posting	RyeTV	CCA Presentation at City Council Meeting and Consideration to Set Public Hearing on CCA Enabling Law	http://ryeny.swagit.com/play/09282018-736	9/26/18
Local TV station; web posting	RyeTV	CCA Presentation at Library	http://www.ryetv.org/10032018-1675	10/1/18

Local TV station; web posting	RyeTV	Notice of upcoming Public Hearing on CCA Enabling Law	http://ryeny.swagit.com/play/10172018-1914	10/17/18
Local TV station; web posting	RyeTV	Public Hearing on CCA Enabling Law	http://ryeny.swagit.com/play/11072018-1245	11/7/18

**PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF RYE**

Notice of Public Hearing to consider a local law to establish a Community Choice Aggregation Program in the City of Rye.

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Rye on the 7th day of November, 2018 at 7:30 P.M. at City Hall, Boston Post Road, in said City, at which interested persons will be afforded an opportunity to be heard concerning a proposal to consider a local law to establish a Community Choice Aggregation Program in the City of Rye.

Copies of said local law may be obtained from the office of the City Clerk.

Carolyn D'Andrea, City Clerk

Dated: October 18, 2018

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*Carolyn D'Andrea
10/22/18*



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is Westchester Power?

A: Westchester Power is a program that enables participating Westchester communities to join together and purchase electricity supply in bulk. Aggregating consumers on a large scale creates the buying power necessary to dictate the terms of our energy purchasing. Westchester Power has secured low fixed electric supply rates for 24 Westchester municipalities, representing over 90,000 households and small businesses.

Q: Who administers Westchester Power?

A: Westchester Power is a partnership program of Sustainable Westchester and participating Westchester County municipalities. Sustainable Westchester is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) consortium of Westchester County local governments - in effect, owned by you. Sustainable Westchester has been authorized by the New York State Public Service Commission as the pilot CCA program in New York State, and your municipality has chosen Westchester Power to act as the manager, coordinator, and administrator of the program.

Q: Does Westchester Power replace my utility?

A: No. Your existing utility (Con Edison or New York State Electric & Gas, depending on where you live) will continue to deliver reliable power, maintain power lines, and respond to service outages. They will still provide the same customer service to all residents regardless of whether they are in the program. They are required by law to do so. Customers will still receive only one bill each month and it will still come directly from your utility. The new bill will reflect the change in supplier and new supply rate.

Q: How does Westchester Power procure power?

A: Westchester Power administered a competitive bidding process, soliciting responses from all registered New York suppliers. Constellation NewEnergy, Inc. is the supplier under the current contract.

Q: How can I be sure Westchester Power will provide energy consistently?

A: Electricity is a highly regulated industry and there are many safeguards against service interruption from supplier error. There is a "grid operator" (called the NYISO) that monitors the grid at the high-voltage level to ensure the proper power is flowing at all times. In addition, the utility remains the "provider of last resort," which means they are obligated to serve any customers whose supplier has failed to buy the requisite power for those customers.

Q: Will I save money by participating in Westchester Power?

A: Westchester Power rates are fixed at a price lower than the average utility rate between July 2017 and July 2018. Our large customer base assures us of attracting competitive bids from suppliers; however, it is the nature of a fixed price contract that there is no guarantee that Westchester Power rates will be lower in any given month, or save money through the end of the contract period.

Q: How does the enrollment process work?

A: Residential and small commercial (those not charged for their peak demand) customers that currently receive electric supply from the utility are automatically enrolled. Residents or small businesses that are presently under contract with a third party electricity supply company (ESCO) are not enrolled. If you are already signed up with an ESCo, but want to switch to Westchester Power, look at the terms of your existing contract to see when it expires and what (if any) penalties apply for early termination. If you choose to terminate your contract with the ESCo, you can then Opt In to join the program.

Q: What if I don't want to participate?

A: It is absolutely your choice. Every household and small business that currently receives its energy supply from the utility can opt out at any time by filling out an online form at www.westchesterpower.org under "Energy Choices," or by calling Westchester Power directly at 914-242-4725. They will ask you for the same information seen on that form: name of your utility, name on the account, account number, email, phone, service address, and your city, state, and zip code.

Q: Is there a fee for opting out of Westchester Power?

A: No, there is never a fee or penalty for opting out.

Q: If I opt out after the contract has taken effect, how will that affect my service?

A: Service will not be interrupted whatsoever. The account will be transferred back to the utility at the end of the following billing period.

Q: Does Westchester Power supply "green" power?

A: Yes. In fact, 22 of the 24 participating municipalities have set 100% renewable power supply product as the default option for their residents and small businesses. Your municipality chose either standard power or green power as the default supply, but residents/small businesses can freely choose to switch supply options at any time.

Q: What is the 100% Renewable Energy Option?

A: The Westchester Power renewable energy option is currently 100% renewable power supply product consisting of delivered power matched with Renewable Energy Certificates ("RECs") generated by hydropower, solar energy or wind energy not coal, natural gas, oil, or nuclear. Using electricity generated by hydropower, solar, or wind energy dramatically reduces greenhouse gas emissions. We can celebrate our contribution to cleaner air and cleaner water. It is the right choice for our planet, for future generations, for all who care about climate change.

For additional information, email info@westchesterpower.org or call (914) 242-4725.

