

## For Immediate Release

March 3, 2020

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### Update: Livingston's Community Energy Aggregation Program

(Livingston, NJ) – Livingston's Community Energy Aggregation program (LCEA) began in June 2019. At that time, Energy Aggregation contracts were awarded to two separate vendors.

"The cost-per-unit for energy is lower using the energy aggregation program versus the standard utility cost, and those in the program are projected to save about 10%," stated Mayor Rudy Fernandez. "The reason the Township became involved in this program was to help ratepayers save money and help the environment," he continued. "The town receives nothing from the program or the vendors – other than maybe a cleaner environment, which benefits all of us."

**PSE&G:** Residents located in PSE&G territory are served by Direct Energy Services. The power supply for all PSE&G residents participating with Direct Energy Services includes 100% renewable energy content.

**JCP&L:** Residents located in JCP&L territory are served by Constellation New Energy, Inc. The power supply for all JCP&L residents participating with Constellation New Energy, Inc. includes approximately 41% renewable energy content.

**How Energy Aggregation Works:** The energy aggregation program applies only to the **energy supply portion** of the resident's electric service. The **delivery portion** of the resident's service will still be provided by the original provider – either PSE&G or JCP&L. PSE&G/JCP&L will continue to provide emergency and safety services, customer services such as meter readings, billing, and service restoration. Residents who are on a PSE&G or JCP&L budget billing plan will continue to receive that service.

All residents who did not have a third-party supply contract at the time the program went into effect were eligible to participate. However, participation in the program was not mandatory. Residents had a 30-day period during which they could opt out prior to the start of the program. Enrolled residents can also opt out at any time with no

penalties or fees by calling their energy aggregation supplier. The change should be effective with the next billing cycle.

**Comparing Costs:** When comparing costs, it’s important to know how to properly calculate the charges to compare the original utility charge to the renewable supply vendor charge. See the sample comparison chart below:

<i>Sample:</i> Correctly calculate and compare total charges on your electric bill					
	<i>Start with</i> No. of Kilowatt Hours (kWh) Used	<i>Multiply that by:</i> Rate per kWh	<i>Equals:</i> Total kWh cost	<i>Then add:</i> Total electric delivery charges	<i>Equals:</i> Total Amount Billed
Primary Utility	550	.127851 per	\$70.32	+ \$26.64	\$96.96
Energy Aggregation Vendor	550	.113200 per	\$62.26	+ \$26.64	\$88.90

Many residents are on an equal payment plan throughout the year. Those individuals will not see the potentially significant difference in the total amount billed in, for example, July – when air conditioning uses a great deal of electricity – versus January – when gas or oil usage for heating is likely much higher, and electricity usage lower.

**About Energy Aggregation in New Jersey:** Under state law, community energy aggregation programs are permitted in order to allow municipalities to pool together residents and conduct a bid for power supply from third-party suppliers with the goal of obtaining a power supply price that is lower and/or has more renewable energy than the power supplied by the electric utility. The program is conducted under the oversight of the NJ Board of Public Utilities, the Division of Rate Counsel, and the Department of Community Affairs.

“Energy aggregation allows municipalities to use their bulk purchasing power in a free-market bidding process to offer residents the chance to save money on their electric utility bills,” stated Township Manager Barry R. Lewis, Jr. “It also supports achieving

another goal – that of lowering our carbon footprint by utilizing a power supply that includes renewable energy content.”

The State of New Jersey law for the Board of Public Utilities, as stated in N.J.A.C.\* 14:4-6.3 (i) states that all municipal energy aggregations in New Jersey must be opt-out rather than opt-in programs:

(i) If a residential customer is located within the geographic boundaries of a municipality or county that establishes a government private energy aggregation program, the residential customer shall automatically be included in the program unless the customer indicates [its] his or her desire not to participate in the program by opting-out in accordance with N.J.A.C. 14:4-6.5 and 6.6.

\*New Jersey Administrative Code

**Vendors:** The Township’s Energy Consultant is Gabel Associates, which will help manage the overall processes. Individuals with questions about the overall program may contact them by email at [LCEA-info@gabelassociates.com](mailto:LCEA-info@gabelassociates.com).

PSE&G customers who are in the energy aggregation program and have questions, need information, or want to opt-out must contact Direct Energy Services at 1-866-968-8065 or by email at [lcea-livingston@directenergy.com](mailto:lcea-livingston@directenergy.com).

Please Note: PSE&G does not have specific information about Livingston’s Community Energy program. For reliable information about the program, directly contact Direct Energy Services.

JCP&L customers who are in the energy aggregation program and have questions, need information, or want to opt-out must contact Constellation New Energy at 1-833-214-2009 or by email at [vst@constellation.com](mailto:vst@constellation.com).

Please Note: JCP&L does not have specific information about Livingston’s Community Energy Aggregation program. For reliable information about the program, directly contact Constellation New Energy.

**Additional Resources:** More information can be found on the Township’s website at [livingstonnj.org/Energy Aggregation](http://livingstonnj.org/Energy%20Aggregation) or [livingstonnj.org/LCEA](http://livingstonnj.org/LCEA). Residents may also visit NJ government energy aggregation at [njgea.com](http://njgea.com).

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