

10/31/2022

## Electric Rates this Winter

You may be interested in using the Town's electric rate negotiated by our Westchester Power program which is fixed for another 12 months. Some people are on a variable rate and others are on a fixed rate contract for their electricity supply charges. The charges are always in cents per kilowatt hour.

The Town has electric supply rates negotiated by *Westchester Power*, which is part of *Sustainable Westchester*. The program allows you to opt in and out anytime. Right now, *Westchester Power's* provider is **CONSTELLATION NEWENERGY INC** which appears as the electric supplier on the electric bill of anyone in the program. NYSE&G will always remain the electric company delivering electricity to you home. If you opt in to *Westchester Power*, depending on where you are in your NYSE&G electric billing cycle, it may take one or two billing cycles to opt in or opt out of this program.

Your electric bill has both *delivery charge* and *supply charge*. The delivery charge is with the company who owns the wires who delivers the electricity to your home. The supply charge, the actual electricity flowing over the wires, is either NYSE&G or a third party company known as an *Energy Supply Company* (abbreviated as ESCO). If you don't select an ESCO you default to NYSE&G as the supplier.

The *supply* rates from NYSE&G are always variable month to month and NYSE&G is warning us they will be very high this winter. ESCO's can be fixed or variable and can be for set time periods. *Westchester Power's* rates are fixed. Sometimes there is a penalty to move off of an ESCO supply before the end of your contract period. If the fixed price contract with an ESCO lapses you are automatically brought over to a new contract but usually at less favorable rates, fixed or variable.

*Westchester Power* is a little different but operates like an ESCO. It has contracts with third parties to provide our residents with fixed electric prices for periods of time. *Westchester Power* has two rates for NYSE&G electric supply charges, a *renewable energy rate* and a *standard energy rate*. The renewable is slightly higher per kilowatt hour (KwH) as it sources all of its electricity from renewable energy sources, in our case New York State hydropower. It is important for people who are trying to do their part for a positive environmental impact.

***Westchester Power's* two rates are fixed for another 12 months;**

- 1. Standard electricity is 8.736 cents per KwH**
- 2. Renewable electricity is 10.179 cents per KwH.**

## **HOW DO I SWITCH TO WESTCHESTER POWER'S SUPPLY RATE?**

There is no penalty for opting in or out of the *Westchester Power* program rates. If you are using NYSE&G variable rates, NYSE&G is stating in the below announcement that they expect this year's winter rates for eastern NYS to be **45% higher than last year**. Last year's January rate hit 16 cents per kWh. There is also no penalty to move from NYSE&G variable rates to *Westchester Power* fixed rates.

If you are using an ESCO now check to see if you have a penalty if you leave their program and what your kWh rate is before you consider moving to *Westchester Power*.

**OPTING IN OR CHANGING YOUR SELECTION TAKES JUST A FEW MINUTES.  
IF YOU ARE UNSURE IF YOU ARE IN THE PROGRAM YOU CAN CHECK on this site also.**

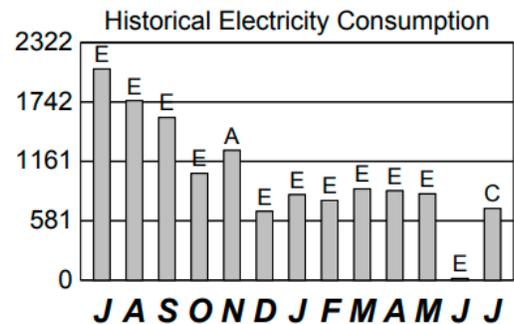
1. Visit: <https://sustainablewestchester.org/wp/nyseenergychoices/> and select **Lewisboro** on the form, then follow the simple steps & check on or submit your enrollment choice. You will need a copy of your bill and two numbers from it. Your **NYSE&G account number** on page 1 and your account **POID number** (usually on page 3 of the 5 page bill).
2. Actual enrollment can take up to two (2) billing cycles to see your choice reflected on your electricity bill. So if you do it now it might not take effect until January.
3. Here's some helpful information on what to look for and how to read your bill as a participant of the Westchester Power program: <https://sustainablewestchester.org/nyseg-with-westchester-power/>
4. Need help Contact: [westchesterpower@sustainablewestchester.org](mailto:westchesterpower@sustainablewestchester.org)
5. If possible check it out yourself but if you really need help you can call *Westchester Power* directly, call; 914-242-4725 x111. *Westchester Power* is us... it is not a separate company but created by us. In fact the person running Westchester Power is a Lewisboro Town Councilman. They do not have large call centers so check out as much as you can yourself.

*What does Sustainable Westchester - Westchester Power get from the program? .01 cents per Kilowatt hour which is paid to them by the electric supplier that has the best price in an auction they run. With this money they fund all of the other renewable energy programs they run. It is a nonprofit organization and I happen to be on the board there. Check out all of the other programs at <https://sustainablewestchester.org/>.*

Participation also contributes to a significant positive environmental impact – In 2021, program participants using renewable energy offset 166,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions, equivalent to 36,800 cars taken off the road for 1 year!

## NYSE&G’s Billing System

NYSE&G has a problem with their billing system. They are also estimating bills for months based on last year usage and not actually reading the meter. This graph is usually on page 3 of the residential bills. An “E” at the top of the column means they guessed, an “A” means they actually read the meter. A “C” means the home owner called the reading into them. In this person’s case NYSE&G read the meter once in 12 months.



By second quarter 2023, NYSE&G will be changing out all of our meters with meters that electronically provide them the meter usage data. That will mean that bills will no longer be estimated and will be accurate with regards to the kilowatts of electricity used. They are also replacing their billing software which should also help the situation.

## An additional 10% off? JOIN A COMMUNITY SOLAR PROGRAM

Having nothing to do with the other items discussed above you can additionally join a *Community Solar* program and get up to 10% off your electric bill. Check it out here;

<https://sustainablewestchester.org/solar/#benefits>. For NYSE&G

customers there are currently 480 openings across two sites;

Smith Creek and Halsey Valley Community Solar. If you have any

questions or want to speak with someone to help you through the process: Email,

communitysolar@ sustainablewestchester.org or call 914-242-4725 x105. Westchester Power

has a very small call center so try it yourself, its easy.

