

10/7/2022

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.**

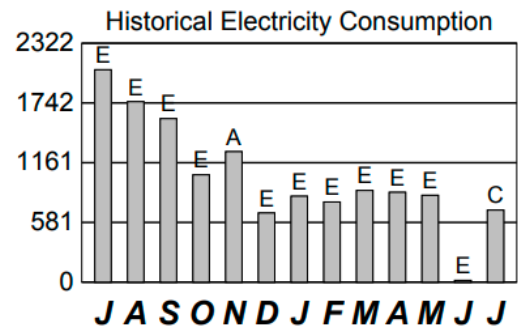
1. Visit: <https://sustainablewestchester.org/wp/nyseenergychoices/> and select **North Salem** on the form, then follow the simple steps & check on or submit your enrollment choice. You will need a copy of your bill and two numbers from it. Your **NYSE&G account number** on page 1 and your account **POID 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 December.
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
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

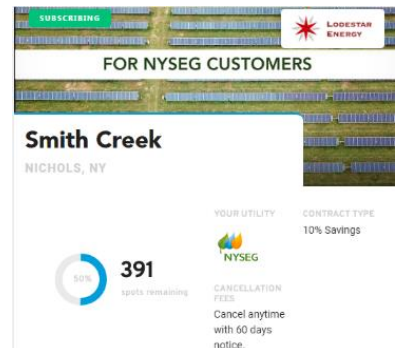
NYSE&G has a problem with their billing system. They are also estimating bills for months based on last year usage and not actually reading the meter. This graph is usually on page 3 of the residential bills. An “E” at the top of the column means they guessed, an “A” means they actually read the meter. 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. I know a number of you have bad bills. I have mentioned this issue to NYSE&G and the PSC.

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 as I have 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. Questions you can also email me at Town Hall.

Be safe

Warren Lucas - wlucas@northsalemny.org



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NYSEG ENCOURAGES CUSTOMERS TO TAKE ACTION NOW TO MANAGE RISING WINTER ENERGY COSTS

Company reminds customers of payment options, budget billing, energy saving tips, and energy efficiency programs

BINGHAMTON, NY — October 6, 2022 — [New York State Electric & Gas \(NYSEG\)](#) is urging customers to take steps to manage their energy bills this winter due to market conditions that have elevated energy supply prices.

“Our electricity and natural gas delivery rates are expected to remain steady through the winter,” said Terri VanBrooker, Vice President of Customer Service for NYSEG and RG&E. “The other major component of bills, supply prices, are provided by third parties and are projected to significantly increase compared to last year. These supply prices, combined with higher energy use in the cold weather months, may result in higher bills for our customers.”

NYSEG does not own generation but procure energy on the open market which has experienced a rise in fuel prices due to supply constraints and global events. The company does not realize any financial benefit from supply charges, as supply charges are passthrough costs that represent the actual cost of purchasing the energy to deliver to customers.

The company estimates that based on current market prices, the average residential customer in eastern New York should expect to pay an average of about \$48 more a month for electricity this winter – December through March – which represents a projected increase over last year of about 45%. Those who are also gas customers, can expect to pay an average of about \$47 more a month for gas from December through March. This is an increase of about 30% over the same period last year. Eastern New York includes our Auburn, Binghamton, Brewster, Ithaca, Liberty, Mechanicville, Oneonta and Plattsburgh divisions.

Based on current market prices the company estimates, the average residential customer in western New York will pay an average of about \$12 more a month for electricity – December through March – which represents approximately a 14% increase from the same period last year. Those who are also gas customers, can expect to pay an average of about \$47 more a month for gas from December through March. This is an increase of about 30% over the same period last year. Western New York includes our Elmira, Geneva, Hornell, Lancaster and Lockport divisions.

Customers have other options for their electricity and/or natural gas supply. Information on choosing an electricity or natural gas supplier is available at nyseg.com/choice.

Those customers who already obtain their electricity and/or natural gas from a supplier other than NYSEG (also known as an energy services company or ESCO) should consult with their supplier for information on winter supply prices and ask if a balanced billing program is available.

“We encourage our customers to take steps to ensure they are using energy wisely. This includes weatherization projects, implementing low- and no-cost energy conservation measures and considering our Budget Billing service,” VanBrooker said.

Budget Billing

When a customer signs up for Budget Billing, NYSEG divides their annual energy bill into 12 equal payments. Every three months, we may review the actual cost of energy used and compare it to the total payments made. If needed, the monthly budget payment is adjusted up or down. This reduces the possibility of a large credit or balance due at the end of the Budget Billing year and protects customer from price volatility.

NYSEG also offers eBill and AutoPay services so customers can set up automatic payments; either service is an ideal complement to Budget Billing to take the worry out of remembering to pay energy bills on time.

To sign up for Budget Billing, eBill or AutoPay services or for more information, NYSEG customers can visit nyseg.com and click on “Account”.

Using Energy Wisely

Taking a few simple steps to control energy use, particularly during extreme weather conditions when energy commodity costs tend to spike, can help control winter bills. Here are some tips from NYSEG:

Heating

- Set the thermostat as low as comfort permits. Each degree above 68° F can use 3% more energy.

- Turn thermostats down to 58° when you're away from the house for more than a few hours or in bed for the night. (This may not be advisable if frail, ill or elderly people or infants are in the home.)
- Install a programmable or wi-fi thermostat to automatically control your heating by lowering the temperature when you're not home.
- Clean or replace furnace filters as recommended and have your furnace burner checked and cleaned annually by a contractor. A well cleaned and tuned heating system saves you money.
- Use registers to direct warm airflow across the floor, not up toward the ceiling.
- Close vents and doors in unused rooms and close fireplace dampers when not in use.
- Open draperies and blinds on sunny days to let the warmth in; close them at night to insulate against cold air outside.

Lighting/Electricity

- Install high-efficiency LED lighting. LED lighting uses 90% less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and lasts up to 25 times longer.
- Use programmable timers to turn lights on/off.
- Turn off lights and electronics when not in use.

Hot Water

- Set water heater temperatures at 120° to cut water heating bills without sacrificing comfort.
- Install water-flow restrictors in showerheads and faucets.
- Limit the length of showers.

Run washing machines and clothes dryers with a full load.

For energy saving tips visit:

- nyseg.com/UnderstandYourUsage

For information on NYSEG energy efficiency incentives and rebate programs:

- nyseg.com/EnergyEfficiencyPrograms

For more information on Energy Efficiency/Smart Solutions visit:

- [Smart Energy \(nyseg.com\)](http://nyseg.com/SmartEnergy)

Energy Assistance Programs

Energy Assistance Program (EAP) helps eligible customers manage their energy bills through a monthly bill discount. You're automatically enrolled with a current HEAP benefit, and we've expanded eligibility criteria with a new application if you receive other assistance.

Payment Plans - We can help with payment plans available online for eligible customers or contact us so we can find a solution together.

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) and Emergency HEAP are federal grant programs that help income eligible households pay for energy bills, repairs and weatherization.

For more information visit:

- [Home Energy Assistance Program \(HEAP\) | OTDA \(ny.gov\)](#)

Customers who are having difficulty paying their bills are urged to contact NYSEG right away (NYSEG: 888.315.1755) or visit nyseg.com/HelpWithBill.

NYSEG is a subsidiary of AVANGRID, Inc.

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About NYSEG: New York State Electric & Gas Corporation (NYSEG) is a subsidiary of AVANGRID, Inc. Established in 1852, NYSEG operates approximately 35,000 miles of electric distribution lines and 4,500 miles of electric transmission lines across more than 40% of upstate New York. It also operates more than 8,150 miles of natural gas distribution pipelines and 20 miles of gas transmission pipelines. It serves approximately 894,000 electricity customers and 266,000 natural gas customers. For more information, visit www.nyseg.com.

About AVANGRID: AVANGRID, Inc. (NYSE: AGR) aspires to be the leading sustainable energy company in the United States. Headquartered in Orange, CT with approximately \$40 billion in assets and operations in 24 U.S. states, AVANGRID has two primary lines of business: Avangrid Networks and Avangrid Renewables. Avangrid Networks owns and operates eight electric and natural gas utilities, serving more than 3.3 million customers in New York and New England. Avangrid Renewables owns and operates a portfolio of renewable energy generation facilities across the United States. AVANGRID employs more than 7,000 people and has been recognized by JUST Capital in 2021 and 2022 as one of the JUST 100 companies – a ranking of America’s best corporate citizens. In 2022, AVANGRID ranked second within the utility sector for its commitment to the environment and the communities it serves. The company supports the U.N.’s Sustainable Development Goals and was named among the World’s Most Ethical Companies in 2022 for the fourth consecutive year by the Ethisphere Institute. For more information, visit www.avangrid.com.



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