



Village of New Paltz

Hudson Valley Community Power



November 15, 2019

Dear New Paltz Resident,

The Village of New Paltz is pleased to announce the launch of Hudson Valley Community Power, a new Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program¹ that allows us to pool local electricity demand with other Hudson Valley municipalities to provide low cost, **fixed-rate renewable electricity supply**. Each participating community has selected Joule Community Power² as Program Administrator. Joule works on behalf of the municipalities to secure clean energy supply at the most favorable terms, and ensures there are **no contract or exit fees** for consumers.

Supply Options

There are two fixed-rate electricity supply options under our program: **(1) 100% Renewable** and **(2) Standard**. You may choose between these supply options, or opt out of the program. The Village of New Paltz has chosen the 100% Renewable Option as the default. **You will automatically be enrolled in the 100% Renewable option unless you choose the Standard option or opt-out of the program.**

- **100% Renewable Option:** 100% of your electricity supply is matched by Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) provided by New York State renewable power plants (hydropower, wind, solar).
- **Standard Option:** Your electricity supply is a mixture of fossil fuels, nuclear, and may include some renewable energy.

Join Mayor Rogers and the Hudson Valley Community Power team at the meetings shown below to learn more about the program. Bring your questions!

**Saturday, November 23rd,
2:00 pm**

New Paltz Village Hall
25 Plattekill Avenue, New Paltz

**Tuesday, December 3rd,
7:30 pm**

Elting Memorial Library
93 Main Street, New Paltz

Partner municipalities:

City of Beacon
City of Poughkeepsie
Town of Fishkill
Town of Marletown
Town of New Paltz
Town of Philipstown
Town of Red Hook
Village of Cold Spring
Village of New Paltz

¹ Municipal authority enabled by NY State regulation.

² A division of Joule Assets, Inc.

To opt out, you can:

- Return the enclosed “Opt Out Reply Card”, [OR](#)
- Call the Hudson Valley Community Power program hotline at (845) 859-9099, [OR](#)
- Go to www.HudsonValleyCommunityPower.com and submit your information through the Enrollment/Change Form under “CCA” in the navigation bar.

Hudson Valley Community Power Rates

Hudson Valley Community Power has secured rates for your electricity supply that are lower than the historic, average Central Hudson supply rates by organizing a competitive bidding process among energy supply companies (ESCOs).

- Direct Energy was the winning bidder for our 2019 bulk purchase and will be your new supplier, beginning on your first meter-read date after January 1, 2020.
- The new rate will remain fixed for an 18-month period through June 2021.

Rates*

Rate Class	18-month average Central Hudson rate**	Standard Fixed Rate Option	100% Renewable Fixed Rate Option
Residential / Small Commercial	\$.06549	\$.06078	\$.06361

* Rates do not include Gross Receipt Tax (GRT). If your municipality collects GRT, it will be added to these rates.

** Based on Central Hudson electricity supply rates from Apr 2018 – Sept 2019.

Central Hudson will continue to be responsible for the power lines that deliver your electricity and will continue to bill you in the exact same way. Please contact Central Hudson in the event of any problem with your electricity service.

Enrollment

If you wish to opt out of the program, please let us know by December 15, 2019. If you do not opt out, you will be enrolled, and your account data (including energy usage and utility assistance program participation status) will be shared with Direct Energy. You may still leave the program at any time without penalty. If you choose to stay with us, your new rate will take effect beginning on your first meter-read date after January 1, 2020.

ADDITIONAL SAVINGS & RENEWABLES

You may enroll in our selected local *Community Solar* program to both further support the development of local renewables and secure savings of up to 10% on your annual electricity bills. Community solar projects are an array of solar panels installed in a sunny, offsite location, allowing you to access the benefits from solar without installing panels on your home or business. *Subscription agreement required.*

¡Se habla español, también!

For translation services, please call our office at (845) 859-9099, Option 2.

Para acceder a nuestros servicios de traducción, llame a nuestras oficinas, al (845) 859-9099, Opcion 2.

Learn more about subscribing to a local solar farm at: www.hudsonvalleycommunitypower.com/solar



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is Hudson Valley Community Power?

Hudson Valley Community Power aggregates local communities to purchase bulk electricity supply for households and small businesses. By aggregating large groups of consumers, we have the buying power to dictate the terms of our energy purchase. Together, we have secured low, fixed electricity rates for more than 30,000 customers in 9 Hudson Valley municipalities.

2. Why are New York cities, towns, and villages doing this?

Hudson Valley Community Power has three goals: (1) **cost savings** by providing low, fixed electricity rates for a specific period of time; (2) **100% clean electricity** from within New York State; and (3) **consumer protection** with no additional charges or fees. No contract, additional paperwork or exchange of information is required. The contract guaranteeing the fixed rate is held by the municipality, so all consumers may participate or not.

3. Who administers Hudson Valley Community Power?

Joule Assets has been selected as Program Administrator by each participating municipality. Joule Assets has been authorized by the New York State Public Service Commission to serve in this role. Joule Assets has partnered with Hudson Valley Energy, a regional nonprofit, to spearhead community outreach and education, and to provide program support.

4. Does Hudson Valley Community Power replace my utility?

No. Your existing utility (Central Hudson) will continue to deliver reliable power, maintain power lines, and respond to service outages. As required by law, it will still provide the same customer service to customers regardless of whether they are

in the program. Customers will still receive only one bill each month directly from the utility. The new bill will reflect the change in supplier and new supply rate.

5. How does Hudson Valley Community Power procure power?

Joule Assets administered a competitive bidding process, soliciting responses from all registered New York suppliers. As a result of the process, Direct Energy was selected as the supplier for the current contract, beginning January 1, 2020.

6. How can I be sure Hudson Valley Community Power will provide energy reliably?

Electricity is a highly regulated industry with many safeguards against service and supply interruption. The “grid operator” (called the NYISO) monitors the grid to ensure that power is always flowing. And, the utility remains the “provider of last resort” and must serve customers if a supplier has not purchased needed power.

7. Will I save money by participating in Hudson Valley Community Power?

Hudson Valley Community Power rates are fixed below the average utility rate from April 2018 to September 2019. A similar program has operated in Westchester County since May 2016 and most CCA participants have realized savings over the contract period. However, while our large customer base assures competitive bids from suppliers, fixed price contracts by nature do not guarantee that rates will be lower in any given month or save money through the contract period.

8. How does the enrollment process work?

Residential and small commercial customers (those not charged for peak demand) currently receiving electric supply from the utility are automatically enrolled. If you are a resident or small business currently under contract with a third-party electricity supply company (ESCO) you are not enrolled; but if you want to switch to Hudson Valley Community Power, check your existing contract for its expiration date and any penalties for early termination. If you terminate your contract with the ESCO, you can then “opt in” to the program.

9. What if I don't want to participate?

It is absolutely your choice. Every household and small business currently receiving energy supply from the utility can opt out at any time by submitting an online form at HudsonValleyCommunityPower.com under “CCA Enrollment/Change Form,” or by calling 845-859-9099. Be prepared to provide the name and service address on your utility bill.

10. Is there a fee for opting out of Hudson Valley Community Power?

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

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

Service will not be interrupted, and you'll resume receiving supply from the utility at the end of the next billing period.

12. Am I eligible to participate if I'm on a budget or level billing program with Central Hudson?

Yes, customers may participate in the program and remain on budget billing. There should be no change to the way Central Hudson calculates the budget plan amount, except to reflect the program's fixed supply rate.

13. Does Hudson Valley Community Power supply “green” power?

Yes. In fact, all partner municipalities have set the 100% renewable power supply product as the default option for residents and small businesses. However, customers can freely choose to switch supply options at any time.

14. What is the 100% Renewable Option?

The program's renewable energy option is currently 100% renewable power supply consisting of delivered power matched with Renewable Energy Certificates (“RECs”) generated by hydropower, solar energy or wind energy from New York State. Using renewable energy dramatically reduces greenhouse gas emissions. We can celebrate our contribution to cleaner air and cleaner water.

**For additional information,
email info@hudsonvalleycommunitypower.com, call (845) 859-9099
or visit www.hudsonvalleycommunitypower.com**

For questions regarding municipal participation:
Ariana Basco, Assistant to the Mayor & Village Board
845-255-1413
assistant@villageofnewpaltz.org