

https://www.newjerseyhills.com/observer-tribune/news/video-washington-township-energy-resolution-could-save-residents-some-money/article_f001afc6-282b-52ee-8041-559c5628f43b.html

(VIDEO) Washington Township energy resolution could save residents some money

By MARK KITCHIN Staff Writer Nov 21, 2018



Stacia M. Scaduto, a representative of Commercial Utility Consultants, outlined a plan that could save on residential utility bills in Washington Township.

Photo by Mark Kitchin

WASHINGTON TWP. - Residents could see lower utility bills under a program approved on Monday by the Township Committee.

The committee voted unanimously to allow residents to take advantage of the township's entry into the Government Energy Aggregation Program. The program allows residential and non-residential electricity rate payers to receive a direct reduction in their electric bills through the bulk purchase of energy through a third party energy supplier.

Officials showed interest into entering such a program through an ordinance it passed on Aug. 20 that entered the township into the Hunterdon Area Energy Cooperative which includes Califon, Clinton and Bethlehem. The cooperative's lead agency, Califon, hired Commercial Utility Consultants Inc. and Concord Energy Services to administer the program.

Monday's resolution authorizes the mayor to enroll the township into the cooperative pricing agreement and sign a supplier agreement with Califon.

Stacia M. Scaduto, a representative of Commercial Utility Consultants, said that consumers who enlist in the plan should receive around a 9 percent reduction in electricity bulk rate costs and 4 to 5 percent reduction in their electricity bills overall.

With the agreement, all residents are automatically enrolled. They can opt out of the plan but to do so they must fill out a mailer which will be sent to all residents in January or February.

The mailer contains the contracted rate which is .0863 or just over 8 1/2 cents per kilowatt hour.

The program for Washington Township will start in April.

There is no penalty for joining and then refusing at a later date and acceptance should not affect the overall service of the provider, which is Jersey Central Power & Light, in most cases.

Mayor Bill Roehrich and Township Committeemen Ken Short, James LiaBraaten, Gregg Forsbrey and Matt Murello all voted in favor.

The committee also approved an ordinance on maintenance for vacant, abandoned and nuisance properties during its monthly meeting on Monday Nov. 19.

The committee also unanimously approved an ordinance to require that vacant, nuisance and abandoned properties be maintained. Officials said there are from 20 to 50 properties in various stages of foreclosure and abandonment.

The ordinance defines vacant, abandoned and nuisance properties and what constitutes their ownership, designates a method of registration and establishes a fee schedule in the hopes that the properties can be resold or rehabilitated in a timely manner.

The initial registration fee is \$500, first renewal is \$750, subsequent renewals up to five years are \$1,000 and after five years are \$5,000.

Roehrich also read a proclamation which recognizes November as National Adoption Month.



Energy
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