



TOWN OF CLARKSTOWN

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Important Clarifications Regarding Rockland Community Power Pricing

Recently, Rockland Community Power began sending out letters announcing the relaunching of its popular Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) Program. The CCA is a New York State program which offers residents in participating municipalities the opportunity to band their buying power together and lock in highly competitive energy rates. The Rockland Community Power CCA offers a trio of energy plans that promote various degrees of clean energy supply and sustainability. The program is set to restart in April, 2023.

My office has received numerous calls from residents over the past few days with questions about the letter they received explaining the program. This letter compares an O&R standard plan rate with the cost of the three CCA program choices. Based on the rate shown for the standard O&R plan, the CCA pricing programs all appear to be offered at a higher cost. However, this is somewhat misleading because the O&R default rate is variable and changes every month. Further, the O&R rate shown in the letter is an average of the last 12 months when rates were seasonally lower. The CCA rates shown are locked-in, fixed rates.

As an example, the O&R standard rate for January was \$0.14688 per kWh. Their February rate was \$0.15925 kWh. Both these rates were significantly higher than the Clarkstown default CCA residential fixed rate of \$0.12277 kWh.

It's certainly true that, in any given month, the CCA fixed rate may be higher or lower than the O&R variable amount. However, it is important to note that the organizers of the CCA are relying on the forecasts of industry professionals who are predicting the O&R default rate will increase above the CCA rate, resulting in the CCA being a savings for residents. This is backed by the actual past performance of the CCA program.

While we cannot guarantee savings, the 2-year term of the last CCA contract saw 15,100 participating Clarkstown customers save \$5,336,000 in costs, compared to the O&R standard rate, with lower costs in 18 out of the 24 months the program covered. And by opting for renewable electricity sourcing, these customers saved 33,280 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions from being released into the environment.

Participation in the CCA is not mandatory. If you prefer to stay in the O&R variable-rate default program, it is easy enough to opt-out of the CCA by mailing in the card enclosed with your letter, by calling (845) 859-9099 x1, or by visiting rocklandcommunitypower.com/secureform.

If you're still undecided, you can always give the CCA a try. You have the ability to opt out at any time without any cancellation fees.

Personally, I am going to continue with the CCA. I will keep an eye on the rates and update Clarkstown residents as the program progresses.