

Municipality of Princeton  
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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

## **Princeton Community Renewable Energy Program Announcement**

**Princeton, NJ - April 14, 2020**

The Municipality of Princeton is excited to announce the Princeton Community Renewable Energy (PCRE) Program. The program provides electricity supply to residents at a lower price offered by PSE&G, with higher renewable energy content, and with no change to the level of service.

The program was initiated in November 2019 when the Municipality issued a request for proposals to procure affordable and clean, renewable electricity supply on behalf of its residents. This public, transparent, and competitive process, referred to as government energy aggregation, is permitted under New Jersey State Law with oversight from the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, the Division of Rate Counsel and the Department of Community Affairs. It allows municipalities to leverage the bulk purchasing power of all residents to obtain electricity supply at better prices and better terms than available from the local utility or from other third-party, direct-marketing electricity suppliers.

As a result of the request for proposals, the municipality has awarded a contract beginning in June 2020 to Constellation NewEnergy, Inc. (CNE) for energy supply to residents **with 50% renewable energy and the opportunity to opt-in to a 100% renewable energy option**. In addition, the awarded contract price is projected to be less than the PSE&G tariff price-to-compare on a per-kilowatt-hour basis. Thus, all residents will receive an electricity supply with more than double the renewable energy content of the supply provided by PSE&G (50% renewable vs 24%), at a slightly lower cost (\$.13053/kWh vs. \$.13508/kWh), and with no change to the level of service. The program begins in June 2020 and prices are guaranteed for 18-months.

Eligible residents will receive a PCRE Program Notification mailer from CNE starting the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of April 2020. The package includes an introductory letter from the Mayor, a Program Summary, FAQs, and how to 'opt-out' of the program if you do not wish to participate, or how to 'opt-up' to the 100% renewable energy product.

If residents prefer to remain with PSE&G power supply or switch to another supplier they are free to do so. The information on how to 'opt-out' of the program (via mail, telephone or electronically) has been prominently displayed in program materials.

Residents who do not 'opt-out' of the program by May 6<sup>th</sup> will be enrolled and begin receiving electricity supply from CNE effective with their June 2020 meter read date. Residents that already have a third-party electricity supplier or solar will not be enrolled and can contact [PCRE-info@gabelassociates.com](mailto:PCRE-info@gabelassociates.com) for more information.

A Public Information Session will be held on April 22, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. about the program. Princeton's energy consultant, Gabel Associates, will be available to answer questions from residents. Following the State's COVID-19 social distancing guidelines, the session will be conducted online. Under normal conditions, this meeting would be held at a municipal building and open to the public to attend in person. Residents that have questions they would like to ask during the Public Information Session can email them in advance to: [PCRE-info@gabelassociates.com](mailto:PCRE-info@gabelassociates.com).

Steps that have been taken in accordance with the NJBPU's government energy aggregation rules include the passage of Ordinance No. 2019-33, after a public hearing, on August 26, 2019; submission of a draft bid and contract documents in September 2019 to the NJBPU and NJ Division of Rate Counsel for review; advertisement and issuance of a public bid in November 2019 and passage of a Resolution # 20-134 on 3/10/20 awarding a contract to the low bidder, Constellation New Energy (CNE). In addition, the Notification Letter and Program Summary that was mailed to residents this past week was first submitted to the NJBPU and Division of Rate Counsel for review, as required, to assure compliance with the NJBPU's rules.

The information in the mailing, supplemented by materials on the municipality's website are designed to enable residents to make an informed choice. Consistent with NJBPU rules and different from many other third-party supply deals in the marketplace, the PCRE program documents prohibit Constellation New Energy making unilateral changes to the contract price; require that CNE allow residents to leave the program at any time; and prohibit CNE from assessing termination fees, if and when a resident decides to opt-out of the program. We believe that the PCRE provides benefits by making power supply available with a higher renewable energy content, at a price slightly below the average PSE&G tariff price for power supply.

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