



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **CONTACT:** Virginia Steinberg
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**SUSTAINABLE WESTCHESTER'S ENERGY SUPPLY PROGRAM
ANNOUNCES NEW 2-YEAR CONTRACT WITH LOW FIXED RATES FOR
CON ED CUSTOMERS**

*Westchester Power Program Sets Residential Rates Lower than 2015 Utility
Average, and Drops Commercial Rates 2 Cents/kwh*

Mount Kisco, NY, October 29, 2018--Sustainable Westchester (SW) today announced its Westchester Power Program Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) has negotiated new fixed rates for a second contract term beginning January 2019 and ending December 31, 2020. The new rates, effective January 1, are 7.96 cents/kwh for 100% renewable energy, with standard supply a fraction of a penny less at 7.71 cents/kwh.

Residents will receive rates that are lower than the 2015 Con Edison utility supply average upon which program launch pricing was based. This means that residents will benefit from a 5-year period of stable electricity supply rates. Commercial users will receive a rate that is 2 cents lower than the contract expiring December 31, 2018. Another key feature of the new contract is that rates will be the same for both residents and small businesses.

Nineteen of the 20 municipalities in Con Ed territory opted for green supply, which will be matched with NYS hydro power renewable energy certificates. The current contract is based on Green-e National Wind RECs. Standard electricity supply consists of a mix of fossil fuels--coal, oil, gas--and nuclear, with a small portion of renewables.

Three municipalities who had opted for standard supply in the first contract, selected renewable supply for the new 2-year contract. In addition, two municipalities new to the Westchester Power program--Ardsley and Sleepy Hollow--opted for the renewable supply.

"This marks a promising shift in the mindset of local communities and increased awareness of the importance of initiatives to protect the air we breathe and the environments in which we live," said Laura Rossi, Co-Chairperson of Sustainable Westchester.

SW Co-Chairperson Nancy Seligson commented, "The Westchester Power program has provided both financial and environmental benefits to residents and small businesses. With commercial pricing set at the same rate as residential, this means small businesses in our program will see a 20% cut in their electricity supply costs come January. This contract renewal assures that Westchester Power will continue to provide price protection and significant greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation for participating municipalities."

Constellation NewEnergy, Inc., supplier for the original contract, was awarded the new contract after an extensive Request for Information (RFI) inquiry and final Request for Proposal (RFP) process. The bid review team included Town of Bedford Supervisor and SW Vice Chairman Chris Burdick, Town of Ossining Supervisor Dana Levenberg and the Director of the Pace University Climate Center, Karl Rabago. Mr. Rabago also serves as Chair of the Center for Resource Solutions and has held a number of positions in the energy industry, including Commissioner on the Texas Utility Commission.

“One indication of our program’s success is the portfolio of final proposals we received from qualifying suppliers,” said Dan Welsh, Program Director. “It was an invigorating exercise to evaluate the rate submissions with such an esteemed review team. The interest and competitive bids we received bode well for the future of the renewables market and the potential for CCAs throughout NY State.”

With its launch in 2016, the Westchester Power program served as the New York State pilot for CCAs to secure competitive rates and renewable energy for residents and small businesses in participating municipalities. The Public Service Commission (PSC) has since extended authorization to create similar community energy structures for municipalities across the state.

Bob Elliott, Executive Director of Sustainable Westchester, noted the importance of the Westchester Power program in achieving the organization’s goals. “We work with our members to create healthier, vibrant communities through initiatives that offer localized environmental and economic benefits. This program’s success has resulted in increased municipality participation and focus on renewable energy. In addition, several communities are currently completing the necessary prerequisites to join the program.”

CCAs are also charged with promoting the NYS “Reform the Energy Vision (REV)” energy plan. Sustainable Westchester has active programs in battery storage, solar energy and most recently heat pump and home energy efficiency, all of which are critical pieces of that plan.

Residents and participating municipalities will receive a Westchester Power notification letter shortly. This letter will explain the supply option chosen by the village/town/city, the pricing structure and contact information for Westchester Power should they have questions. Con Ed customers can opt out of the program, or change their electricity supply option at any time without any exit or contract fees.

About Sustainable Westchester

Sustainable Westchester is a non-profit membership organization consisting of 42 out of 45 Westchester municipalities and the County itself. The organization collaborates with municipal leaders to share tools, resources, and incentives for healthy, vibrant and attractive communities now and in the future. Focus areas include energy, with programs including the Westchester Power Program (CCA) serving 24 municipalities, Solarize Westchester and the Community Solar programs, HeatSmart Westchester (a geothermal heating/cooling program); transportation and land use, with the Clean Transportation program (EVs and charging stations) and green landscaping programs; waste management and materials with the ZeroWaste Westchester program; food and water.

About Westchester Power

Westchester Power, a program of Sustainable Westchester, is the first community choice aggregation (CCA) in NYS. Since its launch in 2016, this community-based bulk energy purchasing program has served as the state’s

pilot for securing competitive rates and renewable energy for residents and small businesses in participating municipalities. Of 24 member communities, 21 chose 100% renewable electricity supply. The program has provided financial savings and significant environmental benefits derived from carbon dioxide avoidance for those customers using the 100% renewable energy supply.

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