

UPDATE ON VILLAGE OF LIMA COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION PROGRAM

September 9, 2020

The Village of Lima is proud to be one of the founding communities of Finger Lakes Community Choice renewable energy program. This historic program, will form an important pillar in New York State's Climate Action Plan of reaching 70% renewables by 2030, through allowing villages such as our own, to make community solar available to **all** residents and small businesses of Lima through **a single** bidding and contracting process directly with the solar developer (rather than each resident being required to sign up on their own). On top of this, residents will benefit from a 10% discount compared to what we have historically paid for basic National Grid supply for all their solar credits.

Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) customers will continue to receive electric delivery, repair, and billing from National Grid and will only see a line item, indicating their solar credits on this normal bill.

The Village of Lima will be holding public information meetings about this innovative program on Thursday, September 24th at 7pm and Tuesday, October 20th at 7pm. The location for these two information sessions is the Lima Ambulance Base, 7024 W. Main St., Lima.

COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION – Frequently Asked Questions

What is Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)?

CCA is a program promoted by the New York State Energy Research and Development Agency (NYSERDA) with oversight by the NYS Public Service Commission. Through Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) municipalities create a buying group of residents & small businesses to purchase energy. That group can be used to purchase community solar at a 10% discount to the standard National Grid rates. This program provides an exciting opportunity for all of us, even as a small community, to make a difference in our carbon footprint by switching to clean energy, while still reducing costs.

What are the benefits of CCA?

- Access to solar credits at a 10% discount to standard rates
- Provides consumer protection by ensuring price stability
- CCA gives the community local choice of its energy source
- Empowers the community to take meaningful climate action

Who provides the energy?

CCA lets the community choose its energy sources. With CCA, the community can select a solar developer for the residents of the village. By pooling their electricity needs, communities use bulk purchasing power to obtain bids from a range of solar providers.

Who can participate in CCA?

- Residents
- Small businesses
- Most houses of worship
- Municipalities

Where has CCA been implemented to date?

More than five million customers in 8 states are served by CCA programs. 54% of Westchester County communities are currently cutting costs and purchasing clean energy through this program. 100% of Westchester communities who participated in the first round of CCA have chosen to continue in the program. Several other Finger Lakes communities are either in the process of implementing CCA or are reviewing the program right now.

How does Community Choice Aggregation work?

CCA often starts with community members and elected officials building interest within their community. The community chooses a program administrator to solicit proposals from qualified energy supply companies for the community. The CCA program will launch only if one of the proposals meets the cost-saving and other requirements identified by the community.

How will Community Choice affect me?

Once a community solar project is selected, you will automatically start to receive solar credits on your National Grid invoice. This will apply to residents and small businesses who do not already have a community solar provider or solar panels on their roofs. The only thing that will change on your National Grid bill will be the addition of solar credits which will reduce the overall cost of your electricity. National Grid will continue to deliver energy to your home, bill you, and repair service interruptions. If you want to opt-out of the CCA program, you can do so at any time without cost or penalty.

What if I don't want to participate? If I Opt-Out, can I opt back in at a later date?

Participation is up to you. Customers who do not already have solar on their roofs or are already part of a community solar program will get advanced notice of the program's initiation and clear instructions on how to opt-out (online, by phone, or US Mail with a pre-paid postcard). After 30 days customers who did not opt-out will transition to the CCA program. Customers can always opt out after that with no financial penalty at any time. You can also opt back in with no penalty.

What if I've already chosen an alternative community solar provider or own solar panels?

Customers with solar on their roofs are not qualified to participate. If a customer is already purchasing power from a community solar project, but would prefer to participate in the CCA program,

they will need to opt in and to terminate their current solar contract. Early termination of some solar contracts may result in early termination fees. You will need to check the terms and conditions of your existing contract.

How is CCA different from the solar developers that keep calling me?

With CCA, you do not have to sign a separate agreement to receive Community Solar credits, the municipality has done this on your behalf. The municipality also has oversight of the terms and conditions of the agreement. For example there are no credit checks for customers and no opt-out fees. Also, your normal electricity supply, delivery costs AND solar credits are all provided on one-bill from National Grid rather than with a normal community solar project, where you will need to pay both your normal electricity bill as well as your community solar bill.

How much will I save?

You will save 10% on solar credits, that means that all the electricity delivered to your home by the solar array will be 10% cheaper than your normal National Grid rate. How much total savings this will mean per customer will depend on how much of the solar farm's energy can be allocated to your home on any given month. This may change from month to month.

Avoiding Confusion with Other Energy Companies (ESCOs) and Community Solar Providers

We're hearing questions from residents about mailings from other solar providers.

There are dozens of companies seeking to offer solar contracts for electric supply to New York residents. These companies send mail, make cold-calls, and knock on doors to obtain customers. Some of these messages look very official.

Please do not confuse these offers with the Finger Lakes Community Choice CCA community solar program, which was chosen by the Village of Lima Board of Trustees. **Your local CCA Community Solar program does not require any action to participate, or a contract.** Our team does not call you unless you call us, does not knock on doors, and only sends mail in partnership with the Village of Lima. All correspondence from this CCA program will be printed on official Village of Lima letterhead.

If you have any questions about something you have received or have been offered, call our Finger Lakes Community Choice phone hotline at 585-244-0244 or email the Community Coordinator (Roctricity) at info@roctricity.com or at info@fingerlakescommunitychoice.com .