



York County Community Foundation Energy Program

Fall Newsletter 2010

Rebates

The best way to fight the Met-Ed rate increase next year is to reduce your electricity consumption now. First Energy is offering rebates, as required by Act 129, to help customers pay for electricity saving strategies. Specific program focus on lighting, HVAC, motors, outdoor lighting and other technologies.

For more information visit - <http://www.energysavepa.com>

Energy Program Applications

The first round of project applications have been assessed and evaluated. A total of ten organizations were selected for participation in the Energy Program. The projects include two new construction projects, a renovation project, a solar energy project and 6 energy retrofits.

Applications for the next round of Energy Program assessments are due by December 31, 2010. If your organizations wishes to be considered for our technical and financial assistance the first step is to complete an assessment application.

For more information visit the Program web site at: http://www.yccf.org/grants_energy.asp

Electricity Purchasing

What to do when the rate caps expire?

Beginning in January electricity in the Met-Ed service territory will be deregulated. Only the generation portion of your electric bill will be deregulated, the distribution portion of your bill is still regulated. So will be able to shop for a portion of your electric bill.

The process of deregulation began in 1997. At that time rate caps were imposed on the utilities and they were allowed to recover costs incurred under a regulated market. With the lifting of the rate caps in 2011 the deregulation process will be complete.



Early speculation about the expected rate increases ranged as high as 50% or more. Earlier this year the speculation was a 30% increase. The most recent PA PUC projections are showing that the increase could be less than 10%. The trend in electric pricing is down primarily in response to reduced demand.

Many nonprofit organizations in York County have already been approached about pre-purchasing electricity. Quite a few of the marketers include dire warnings of significant rate increases and encourage you to lock in your price.

Our advice - wait.

Met-Ed's rate in January 2011 will not even be known for certain until early November. Once the price increase has been announced you will be able to make a solid comparison between offers.

There are currently 17 suppliers and 39 brokers serving commercial customers in Met-Ed service territory. Many of these companies tend to focus on only the largest customers. As the electric market matures there will likely be a consolidation.

For the current list visit - <http://www.papowerswitch.com/>

Another option which will likely emerge will be buying groups which will aggregate customers and obtain bulk pricing.

The Energy Program will be following the market and offering advise to York County nonprofits as the market emerges. Feel free to share any questions or lessons learned which could benefit other organizations.