

City now relying on renewable energy for primary electricity supply

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Rochester's community choice aggregation program, Rochester Community Power, launched Wednesday as the city's new electricity supplier, with 57,000 residential and small business customers automatically connected to the renewable energy provider unless they opt out.

Electric rates are locked in for two years at \$0.05800 per kilowatt hour for residential customers and \$0.5877 for small businesses, with Joule Community Power working as the program administrator. The rate is slightly higher than the current rate from Rochester Gas & Electric. Joule attempts to obtain the renewable energy from suppliers close to the area.

Constellation NewEnergy, Inc. will be the new supplier, but bills will continue to be sent by RG&E. RG&E also will continue to deliver the electricity, maintain power lines and respond to outages.

The purpose of the program is to lower the city's carbon output, and the fixed rate may get lower due to the collective power of the client base.

The belief is that with substantially more customers receiving their electricity from wind, solar and hydropower sources, there will be a significant decrease in the reliance on carbon-producing fossil fuels.

For more information, or to opt out, visit the Rochester Community Power website.

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