

May 8 deadline to choose all-green electricity

Participants in the Village's electricity aggregation program have only through May 8 to choose electricity from renewable sources that have less impact on the environment.

The program's new supplier, Constellation Energy, is offering the option of all-green power, but only to those who call 1.800.718.1493 to make the choice.

Residents who have participated in the Village program should have received information in the mail from the Village and Constellation with details about the new contract and consumer options.

Aggregation program participants have the following options:

- Do nothing and be enrolled automatically in the Village's new base aggregation contract, which uses the least expensive sources of electricity;
- Call the toll-free number in the notice from the Village and choose Constellation's all-green supply option; or
- Opt out of the Village aggregation program by returning the card included in the notice received by mail or by calling Constellation.

Residents who opt out of the Village program will default to the state-approved ComEd rate unless they choose a supplier from a list of

companies allowed to provide electricity in Illinois. Residents who choose to seek their own supplier are cautioned to carefully read the terms of any agreement before they decide.

Oak Parkers interested in exploring electricity suppliers other than Constellation, can visit www.pluginillinois.org and compare offers from a wide range of companies approved by the Illinois Commerce Commission to sell power in the state.

In addition to the change in the cost of electricity, utility bills also will include a higher delivery charge, an expense that is beyond the control of local governments. Customers who examine their bill will see the cost of power and its delivery listed separately.

Regardless of who customers choose

as their electricity supplier, ComEd will continue to manage the delivery system and be responsible for service problems and billing issues.

The Village Board chose Constellation Energy through an online auction.

Constellation's bid of 7.47 cents per kilowatt hour was the lowest of three proposals submitted for a contract beginning June 1. Constellation's all-green option is 7.57 cents per kilowatt hour.

Oak Park's contract with Constellation is for one year. The Village likely will go back onto the open market in the spring of 2015 to seek new bids from electricity suppliers.

More information on the Community Choice Aggregation Program is posted at www.oak-park.us/aggregation.

Your Options

Easiest: Do nothing. You will be enrolled automatically in the Village's base contract from Constellation Energy. At 7.47 cents per kilowatt hour, this is the most affordable option, but it is not green energy.

Greenest: Call 1.800.718.1493 to enroll in Constellation's all-green energy option. This option will add about \$1 to the average homeowner's monthly bill compared to the base contract. You will need your ComEd account number.

More Options: Opt out of the Village's program and default to ComEd's state-approved rate, or choose from a variety of suppliers at www.pluginillinois.org.

Farmers' Market to begin 39th season on May 24th

The Oak Park Farmers' Market will open its 39th season on Sat., May 24. The Farmers' Market will be held from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday from opening day through Nov. 1 in the Pilgrim Congregational Church parking lot, 460 Lake St., one block west of Ridgeland Avenue. In addition to a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, flowers, bedding plants, honey, cheese, frozen meat, bread and baked goods the Market also features donuts made

on-site, fresh coffee and live bluegrass music. Regional vendors will feature sustainable, organic and locally sourced goods again this season, including several heirloom products. To help support Market administration, a variety of items will be sold at the information tent, including reusable shopping bags, t-shirts and travel mugs. This season's special events will include Go Green from 9 a.m. to noon, May 24 and 31; a corn roast from

9 a.m. – noon on Aug. 16; and stone soup from 9 to 10 a.m. on Nov. 1, the Market's final day. Non-profit bake sales will be offered each Saturday as well as occasional cooking demonstrations featuring chefs from local restaurants. A majority of the vendors now accept credit/debit cards as well as Link cards. For more information call 708.358.5780, email farmersmarket@oak-park.us or visit www.oak-park.us/farmersmarket.