



# MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP

1 COLONIAL DRIVE • MANCHESTER, NJ 08759 • (732)657-8121

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Robert S. Arace  
MAYOR

**From the Office of Mayor Arace  
April 3, 2024**

## **Manchester Community Energy Aggregation Program Update**

A primary focus as your Mayor is remaining sensitive to the everyday budgeting concerns of our residents as we all navigate uncertain economic times. I recognize that any opportunity to realize savings adds up. The Township Council and I have heard frequently from many residents that they appreciated the reduced energy bills thanks to the Manchester Community Energy Aggregation Program.

As you may know, the previous energy aggregation contract expired last December. Unfortunately, since then bids from third party energy suppliers have been higher than those rates offered by JCP&L, meaning that the Township has not been able to enter into a new Energy Aggregation agreement.

In February, a new round of bids was solicited, in hopes that a third party may provide savings compared to JCP&L's rates. Last week, upon the closing of the bidding process, it was determined that the lowest price offer received came in 3.3 percent higher than the average JCP&L tariff price. Given that this rate is unfavorable to our residents, no contract will be awarded. Our residents will continue to receive the best energy generation rate available, provided by JCP&L.

My goal remains to enter into a new energy aggregation contract should a more favorable rate be presented. The Manchester Community Energy Aggregation Program benefits everyone, from young families to seniors living on fixed incomes. I understand that many have become accustomed to the program, and it is one that I, personally, am very much in favor of continuing. I am hopeful that market rates will continue to improve, and the next round of competitive bids will provide favorable terms that will benefit our residents.

In these challenging economic times, my administration, as well as the members of Council, will continue to explore cost-saving measures, including a solar energy solution that is in the early stages of implementation. I will keep you informed of future competitive bidding processes as Manchester Township seeks to re-enter into an energy aggregation contract.