

As energy prices continue to climb throughout Northeast Ohio and across the country, communities are adopting strategies designed to assist residents and businesses to find the best prices for electric and natural gas utility rates. Energy aggregation is the most frequently used method to secure price rates for electric and gas utilities and involves a community working with a supplier to lock in rates for a defined period. Ohio Law permits community utility aggregation and in Summit County, aggregation legislation was adopted as early as May 2002.

Since 2017, Bath Township has been part of a Summit County aggregation program for natural gas rates through NOPEC (Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council 1-855-667-3201). Eligible customers are automatically enrolled in the Standard Program Price. NOPEC is one of several companies offering natural gas rate pricing and, as such, residents can also choose to opt out of a community's aggregation program and select their own supplier for gas or electric service.

Bath Township is also part of an aggregation program for electric use through the firm, Energy Harbor, LLC. Current pricing under the Summit County plan is .046704/kilowatt hour valid through the May 2024 billing cycle. Local electric supplier First Energy recently announced significant rate increases for the electric utility effective June 2023. For residents who aren't currently enrolled in an aggregation program, or who may have voluntarily opted out of the Summit County aggregation plan, but remain eligible for aggregation, they may contact Energy Harbor at 1-888-254-6359 to determine if they can return to the aggregation plan.

Residents and businesses ineligible for aggregation include:

- Participants in the Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP)
- Customers who are net-metered due to producing energy through alternative sources.
- Customers who are in arrears on utility payments
- Mercantile accounts with monthly usage in excess of 750,000 kwh

A state website that offers a comprehensive comparison of gas and electric suppliers can be found at: www.energychoice.ohio.gov While some suppliers may offer lower rates, be mindful of early termination fees and the plan duration offered between suppliers.