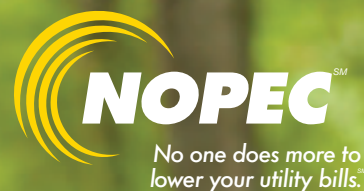


TOGETHER ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



LENDING A HELPING HAND FOR MORE THAN TWO DECADES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ron McVay
CHAIRMAN
County Appointee,
Village of
North Kingsville
(Ashtabula County)



G. Stuart O'Hara, Jr.
Law Director,
City of Norwalk
(Huron County)



Georgine Welo
VICE CHAIR
Mayor,
City of South Euclid
(Cuyahoga County)



Hollie Bartone
Township Administrator,
Painesville Township
(Lake County)



Dave Scheffler
Mayor,
City of Lancaster
(Central Ohio)



David Leshinski
Mayor,
Village of
South Amherst
(Lorain County)



John Zehentbauer
Trustee,
Hanover Township
(Columbiana County)



Lisa Balsinger
Fiscal Officer,
Milton Township
(Mahoning County)



Dr. William Koons
Mayor,
Village of
South Russell
(Geauga County)



Grant Aungst
Community
and Economic
Development Director,
City of Brunswick
(Medina County)



Mickey Marozzi
County Engineer,
Portage County
(Portage County)



A LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It was another busy and eventful year at NOPEC in 2023. What started as a time of uncertainty for NOPEC's electric aggregation, turned into a successful validation as the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) re-certified our electric aggregation in March, finding that NOPEC did not violate any Ohio laws or PUCO rules when we transitioned over half a million customers to the utilities' standard service offer during a period of extreme market volatility in 2022. Not only were our actions legal and transparent, but they were also in the best interest of our customers. Our actions saved residents and businesses hundreds of dollars on their electricity supply costs. Our success throughout this process can only be attributed to the dedication and hard work of so many individuals including the NOPEC Board of Directors, the NOPEC, Inc. Board, the dedicated NOPEC staff, the team at NextEra, and the many community leaders that wrote letters of support on our behalf and worked with us to help share information and updates with their residents.

NOPEC's electric recertification was just the start, however. There were many more successes that we were able to share with our customers and communities. From re-enrolling almost 90% of our transitioned customers back into the electric aggregation, to offering stable, competitive electric and natural gas pricing, continued advocacy to protect Ohio ratepayers, and expanding and launching new programs and initiatives that support economic development, sustainability, and energy-efficiency in NOPEC member communities. NOPEC never wavered in its mission to serve our communities and our customers.

After sharing NOPEC's successes in 2023, it is with a heavy heart that I announce that at the end of 2023, after 18 years serving on the NOPEC Board of Directors, I made the difficult decision to retire from the Board. I am proud and honored to have served such an impactful, mission-driven organization that works so diligently every day in the support and service of Ohio communities and their residents and small businesses. I will continue to support NOPEC's efforts as a NOPEC Ambassador and life-long advocate for this wonderful organization.

NOPEC is a unique organization, focused on helping each distinct member community achieve their individual goals for the future. This report outlines the many initiatives, programs, and benefits that NOPEC's hard-working and committed staff manage on behalf of its 240 member communities, providing energy guidance and expertise, economic development and sustainability support, educating the future energy decision makers of tomorrow, and helping customers and communities conserve energy to save even more. I'm proud to have been a part of NOPEC's growth and impact over the years and wish the organization and its outstanding members all the best for the future.



Ron McVoy,
Chairman,
NOPEC Board of Director

Andrew Smallstey

Administrative Director,
Village of Lexington
(Richland County)



Aaron Montz

CEO,
Tiffin-Seneca
Economic Partnership
(Seneca County)



Steve Patterson

Mayor,
City of Athens
(Southeast Ohio)



Mark Beckdahl

Finance Director,
City of Springfield
(Southwest Ohio)



Joe Mazzola

Director of Planning
and Development,
City of Alliance
(Stark County)



Nick Molnar

Mayor,
City of Macedonia
(Summit County)



Doug Franklin

Mayor,
City of Warren
(Trumbull County)





WE ARE 240
COMMUNITIES,

WORKING
AS ONE

NOPEC exists to serve its member communities and their residents and small businesses by aggregating, educating, and advocating for them. Our goal is threefold: to support thriving communities, protect our planet and operate with integrity.



AGGREGATE

USING THE COLLECTIVE BUYING POWER OF 240 OHIO COMMUNITIES, WE ARE ABLE TO NEGOTIATE FOR LOWER ENERGY RATES AND BETTER TERMS AND CONDITIONS.



EDUCATE

WE PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL TOOLS AND RESOURCES TO HELP COMMUNITIES, RESIDENTS, AND SMALL BUSINESSES CONSERVE ENERGY AND SAVE ON THEIR ENERGY BILLS.



ADVOCATE

WE PROTECT OHIO ENERGY CUSTOMERS BY FIGHTING FOR CONSUMER-FRIENDLY ENERGY POLICIES.

THRIVING COMMUNITIES

We support our members through economic and community investment and educational outreach programs.

PROTECTING OUR PLANET

We provide solutions that can create a positive environmental impact through investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency programs and policies.

OPERATING WITH INTEGRITY

We are uniquely organized to provide public accountability, accessibility, and transparency. Operating with integrity is an essential part of maintaining and strengthening our ability to sustain our many efforts and initiatives.

NATURAL GAS AND ELECTRIC COMMUNITIES

Ashtabula County

Ashtabula
Ashtabula Township
Conneaut
Geneva
Geneva-on-the-Lake
Geneva Township
Harpersfield Township
Jefferson Township
Jefferson Village
Kingsville Township
North Kingsville Village
Plymouth Township
Saybrook Township

Columbiana County

Fairfield Township
Hanover Township
Hanoverton Village
Perry Township

Cuyahoga County

Beachwood
Bedford
Bedford Heights
Bentleyville
Berea
Bratenahl
Brecksville
Broadview Heights
Brook Park
Brooklyn
Brooklyn Heights Village
Chagrin Falls
Cleveland Heights
Cuyahoga Heights
East Cleveland
Fairview Park
Garfield Heights
Gates Mills
Glenwillow
Highland Heights
Highland Hills Village
Hunting Valley
Independence
Lakewood
Linddale Village
Lyndhurst
Maple Heights
Mayfield Heights

Mayfield Village
Middleburg Heights
Moreland Hills
Newburgh Heights
North Olmsted
North Randall
North Royalton
Oakwood Village
Olmsted Falls
Olmsted Township
Orange Village
Parma
Parma Heights
Pepper Pike
Rocky River
Seven Hills
Solon
South Euclid
Strongsville
University Heights
Valley View
Walton Hills Village
Warrensville Heights
Woodmere Village

Franklin County

Reynoldsburg

Geauga County

Auburn Township
Bainbridge Township
Burton Township
Burton Village
Chardon
Chester Township
Claridon Township
Hambden Township
Huntsburg Township
Middlefield Village
Montville Township
Munson Township
Newbury Township
Russell Township
South Russell Village

Huron County

Norwalk

Lake County

Concord Township
Eastlake
Fairport Harbor
Grand River
Kirtland
Kirtland Hills Village

Lakeline Village
Leroy Township
Madison Township
Madison Village
Mentor
Mentor-on-the-Lake
Painesville Township
Perry Township
Perry Village
Timberlake
Waite Hill
Wickliffe
Willoughby
Willoughby Hills
Willowick

Lorain County

Amherst Township
Avon
Avon Lake
Carlisle Township
Columbia Township
Eaton Township
Elyria
Elyria Township
Grafton Township
New Russia Township
North Ridgeville
Pittsfield Township
Sheffield Lake
Sheffield Township
Sheffield Village
South Amherst
Vermilion

Mahoning County

Beaver Township
Berlin Township
Ellsworth Township
Goshen Township
Green Township
Jackson Township
Milton Township
Sebring Village
Smith Township
Springfield Township

Medina County

Brunswick
Chippewa Lake
Gloria Glens

Portage County

Atwater Township
Brimfield Township

Charlestown Township
Deerfield Township
Edinburg Township
Franklin Township
Freedom Township
Garrettsville
Hiram Township
Hiram Village
Kent
Mantua Township
Nelson Township
Palmyra Township
Paris Township
Randolph Township
Ravenna Township
Rootstown Township
Shalersville Township
Suffield Township
Sugar Bush Knolls
Windham Township

Richland County

Lexington Village

Seneca County

Tiffin

Stark County

Alliance

Summit County

Clinton Village
Lakemore Village
Macedonia
Northfield Village
Reminderville
Richfield Village
Sagamore Hills Township

Trumbull County

Liberty Township
Warren

NATURAL GAS COMMUNITIES

Athens County

Athens

Columbiana County

Butler Township
Knox Township
Leetonia Village
Middleton Township
Unity Township
West Township

MEMBER COMMUNITIES 2023

Cuyahoga County

Bay Village
Cleveland
Richmond Heights

Geauga County

Troy Township

Lake County

North Perry Village

Lorain County

Lorain
Penfield Township

Seneca County

Fostoria

Summit County

Bath Township
Boston Heights
Boston Township
Copley Township
Coventry Township
Cuyahoga Falls
Green
New Franklin
Northfield Center Township
Norton
Richfield Township
Springfield Township
Twinsburg Township

Trumbull County

Newton Falls

Wayne County

Rittman

ELECTRIC COMMUNITIES

Ashtabula County

Andover Township
Austinburg Township
Cherry Valley Township
Colebrook Township
Denmark Township

Dorset Township
Hartsgrove Township
Lenox Township
Monroe Township
Morgan Township
New Lyme Township
Orwell Township
Orwell Village
Pierpont Township
Richmond Township
Roaming Shores Village
Rock Creek
Rome Township
Sheffield Township
Trumbull Township
Wayne Township
Williamsfield Township
Windsor Township

Clark County

Springfield

Fairfield County

Lancaster

Geauga County

Chardon Township
Middlefield Township
Parkman Township
Thompson Township

Lorain County

LaGrange Township

Mahoning County

Coitsville Township

Summit County

Peninsula Village
Twinsburg

Trumbull County

McDonald Village

WORKING TOGETHER TO PUT CUSTOMERS FIRST

2023 PUCO ELECTRIC CERTIFICATE RENEWAL

In August, 2022, NOPEC put our customers first. We temporarily returned over half a million electric customers to the lower cost standard service offer program operated by the electric utilities because it was the most affordable offer for those customers during an extremely volatile time for electric markets. This shielded our customers from the substantial price hikes that happened with many other suppliers throughout the state. Many other electric customers and aggregations also returned to the utilities' lower cost standard service offer in 2022.

While NOPEC acted in compliance with Ohio law and rules in our efforts to ensure our customers would pay less for their electric generation supply through Spring 2023, this action resulted in NOPEC's electric certification through the PUCO being reviewed by the agency and challenged by several of NOPEC's direct competitors. After a thorough review by the PUCO and its staff, the PUCO renewed NOPEC's certificate unconditionally in March

2023. In doing so, the PUCO concluded that NOPEC had not violated any Ohio laws or PUCO rules or orders in returning its customers temporarily to the lower cost utility standard service offer.

During this time, more than a hundred of NOPEC's member community leaders, state legislators, and others wrote letters to the PUCO in support of NOPEC's certification renewal. These letters, demonstrating that so many NOPEC communities supported NOPEC's decision, were a significant factor in our successful recertification.

In March 2023, NOPEC started the complex task of informing, educating, and re-enrolling about half a million customers in over 200 member communities back into NOPEC's electric aggregation program.

PUBLIC EDUCATION MEETINGS

Once NOPEC announced plans to re-enroll our electric customers, there were many questions and concerns that needed to be addressed. And we rose to the challenge. NOPEC staff presented at over 100 public educational meetings held throughout NOPEC's member communities, meeting with large groups of residents all over the state, answering their questions, hearing their concerns, and talking with them about their energy bills. These public meetings were made possible because the mayors, city council members, service

and finance directors, and many others from NOPEC member communities helped us to schedule and advertise these meetings.

At these meetings, NOPEC staff helped to allay the concerns that many residents shared with us. Many meetings ended with hugs and handshakes from attendees as they thanked us for being there to help them understand.

ELECTRIC RE-ENROLLMENT

In April 2023, NOPEC mailed about 600,000 enrollment letters to eligible electric customers to restart our aggregation in June 2023. We were pleased that nearly 90% of the customers we transitioned temporarily in August 2022 to save them money returned to NOPEC during our re-enrollment and started service again in June 2023.

The events of the past two years have given NOPEC the remarkable opportunity to live our mission to serve our communities and our customers. While the path we took was a difficult one, the decision was easy. We exist to serve, and this situation gave us the opportunity to do just that. It was done in the best interests of our customers to protect them from rising electricity prices. In 2023, as the electric utilities' standard service offers almost doubled, NOPEC was able to come back with rates significantly lower, saving residents and small businesses in NOPEC member communities substantial amounts on their electric bills.



ONGOING AGGREGATION ENROLLMENT:

NOPEC takes a proactive approach to maintaining every community's full enrollment to ensure the success of each program by conducting refresh mailings each month. These mailings are specifically designed to reach new residents and accounts that have recently concluded their contracts, providing them with timely and relevant information about the community's aggregation program. We also mail enrollment information to all eligible customers in a NOPEC member community every 2 years for natural gas and every 3 years for electric. In fact, in 2023, we

mailed over half a million natural gas enrollment letters to eligible natural gas customers in NOPEC communities.

Our enrollment process is meticulously designed to ensure inclusivity, while strictly adhering to the criteria that only eligible accounts within the defined community boundaries are considered. This careful selection process underscores our commitment to precision and fairness, ensuring that our program remains both accessible and relevant to all community members.

NOPEC'S CUSTOMER CARE CENTER

This past year, our U.S.-based call center has been a cornerstone of our commitment to delivering exceptional customer service, operating 24/7 to ensure our customers have access to support at any hour.

The online chat service available at nopec.org offers customers an immediate and personal way to get help. This platform has allowed us to connect with our customers using another avenue of communication, in real-time, offering solutions and support.

A photograph of two hikers on a rocky mountain peak at sunset. The hiker on the left is a woman with dark hair in a bun, wearing a plaid shirt and black leggings, leaning forward. The hiker on the right is a man with curly hair, wearing a light blue shirt and denim shorts, leaning back. They are shaking hands. The background shows a cityscape and a sunset sky.

WE ARE
ALWAYS
HERE

TO LISTEN
AND KEEP YOU
INFORMED

NOPEC ENERGIZED COMMUNITY (NEC) GRANTS

The NEC Grant program provides funding for vital energy efficiency and infrastructure projects that help member communities reduce their energy consumption. Since 2018, more than 1,500 projects have been completed.

LED EASY-BULB PROGRAM

Using NOPEC's purchasing power, our new LED Easy-Bulb Program helps our communities use their grant funds to obtain LED light bulbs at a significant savings to distribute to their residents. So far, 12,900 bulbs have been distributed.

[For more information](#)

Email grants@nopecinc.org.

\$48.5
MILLION
AWARDED
SINCE 2010

\$4.5
MILLION
AWARDED
IN 2023

TOGETHER,
WE ARE
IMPROVING
COMMUNITIES



ENERGY EFFICIENCY FINANCING PROGRAMS

NOPEC's Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) and Savings Through Efficiency Program (STEP) offer low-interest rate financing designed to help commercial property owners make energy efficient and/or renewable energy updates to their buildings.

PACE, designed for smaller commercial property owners, nonprofits, and municipalities, funds energy efficiency projects up to \$1,000,000 dollars. Projects could include things like HVAC, roofs, windows, and even solar equipment. With rates as low as 3% and generous repayment timing, this off-balance-sheet financing is incredibly valuable to Main Street businesses and cities alike!

STEP offers quick, simple, low-interest loans for energy efficiency improvements starting at a 3% interest rate. STEP covers improvements or replacement for energy efficient aspects of buildings of up to \$125,000, and is one of the most accessible ways a small business, nonprofit, or municipal government can cover their project costs.

For more information

Contact Aaron Marcovy, Economic Development and Community Investment Director, at amarcovy@nopec.org or Jessica Renner, Community Investment Manager, at jrenner@nopec.org.

2023 PROJECTS	PROJECT TYPE	COMMUNITY	FINANCED	IMPROVEMENTS	ANNUAL EST. SAVINGS
12400 Crossburn	STEP	Cleveland	\$125,000	Roof replacement, insulation	\$11,252
Parma Armory	STEP	Parma	\$125,000	HVAC, doors, roofing	\$10,363
Lorenzo's Pizza	STEP	Lorain	\$125,000	Energy audit, insulation, lighting, HVAC	\$8,000

606

ELECTRIC ACCOUNTS
IN 52
COMMUNITIES

109

STREET LIGHT
ACCOUNTS
IN 38
COMMUNITIES

295

GAS ACCOUNTS
IN 56
COMMUNITIES

PREFERRED PRICING PROGRAM

NOPEC member communities can buy electricity and natural gas for their municipal load at the best pricing available from NOPEC. Communities can even choose 100% Renewable Content electric options. Any municipal electric, natural gas, and street lighting accounts may qualify.

RECENT STREET LIGHT COMMUNITY SAVINGS: \$14,000 - \$143,000 ANNUALLY

When many communities saw their street lighting costs increase in June 2023, NOPEC was there to help. By analyzing communities' streetlighting bills, NOPEC was able to recommend lower rate options, resulting in substantial savings.

For more information

Contact NOPEC's Relationship Management Team at team@nopec.org.

NEW SMALL BUSINESS ENERGY AUDIT PROGRAM

Small Business owners in NOPEC member communities can apply for energy audit funding to cover 60% – 100% of the cost of qualifying energy audits. An energy audit provides a comprehensive analysis of their building's energy efficiency and outlines recommendations for upgrades that can reduce energy costs.

For more information

Visit nopec.org/energyaudit or contact energyaudit@nopec.org.

NEW PREFERRED AUDIT PARTNERS

NOPEC's Preferred Energy Audit Partners are trusted, Ohio-based firms that will provide businesses with a quality energy audit and a detailed report. Plus, they offer priority status and guaranteed response times to NOPEC communities.

For more information

Visit nopec.org/preferredpartners.



COMPANY	CITY	BUILDING USE	NOPEC FUNDED
A Leg Up, LLC	Elyria	Printing Manufacturing for EM Print	\$10,000
ACS Industries, Inc.	Kent	Manufacturing Facility	\$5,000
DDR HD & C	Macedonia	Movie Theater	\$8,740
Journey Home Restorations	Lorain	Office Building and Warehouse	\$6,921
Swipe USA	Lorain	Converting Building to Multi-Unit Residential	\$3,515

COMMUNITY EVENT SPONSORSHIPS

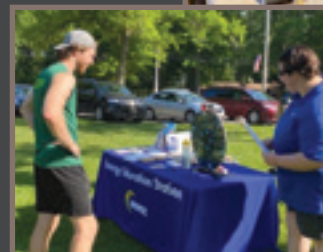
NOPEC member communities are awarded sponsorship dollars they can direct towards local community events. This program also provides an opportunity for our Community Outreach team to bring our Energy Education Station to communities across our footprint.

For more information

Email sponsorships@nopec.org.

OVER
\$1.6
MILLION
AWARDED
SINCE 2018

OVER
\$300
THOUSAND
AWARDED
IN 2023



CELEBRATING TOGETHER



2023 GREEN RIBBON AWARD WINNERS

The Green Ribbon Award recognizes outstanding community achievements in reducing their municipality's energy footprint.

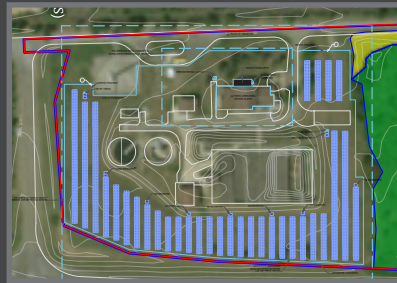
THE CITY OF SOUTH EUCLID

Utilizing the results of a comprehensive energy audit and facility study, the City implemented a number of energy efficiency upgrades including new LED lighting, ADA facility improvements, new HVAC systems, windows, and roofing. The project, completed in 2022, is already having a major impact on reducing the municipality's energy bills.



THE CITY OF RITTMAN

Working with Verde Solutions, the City developed a plan to create a solar panel field at their wastewater treatment plant. The field is expected to supply approximately 77% of the facility's electricity upon completion. The City's long term goal is to set an example of stewardship and sustainability resources.



THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE Honorable Mention

The City's Parks and Recreation Department discovered an opportunity to decrease the energy consumption of eight battery-powered golf carts used throughout the City's park campus with rooftop solar panels. With this project's success, the city is now looking for other improvements for equipment moving forward.



DO NOT KNOCK PROGRAM

Are your residents tired of solicitors knocking on their door? NOPEC's Do Not Knock Program can help! Residents and small businesses can sign up to prevent door-to-door solicitors. When for profit solicitors come calling, the community can provide a copy of the NOPEC-maintained registry to let them know which houses and businesses to avoid. Registrants will also receive two free window clings for added protection. Over 17,000 residents in 19 communities have registered for this program.

Sign up

Customer Care Center 855-667-3201
or blocktheknock.com.

For more information

Email us at outreach@nopec.org.



TOGETHER, WE ARE ENHANCING LIVES

REGIONAL SPONSORSHIPS

Through sponsorships with the Great Lakes Science Center, Lake County Captains, the Cleveland Metroparks, and The Cleveland Orchestra, we continue to expand our visibility while providing educational opportunities and engagement.



GREAT LAKES SCIENCE CENTER

NOPEC's Wind Turbine Exhibit is visited by thousands of families and school groups each year. In May, NOPEC also sponsored Energy Month, where visitors were able to conduct experiments with LED lights, build a circuit, and learn about the energy from weather.

WILD WINTER LIGHTS

NOPEC was once again the presenting sponsor of this incredible event which attracted over 118,000 people to the Zoo. In its fifth year, attendees experienced hundreds of dazzling displays, two musical light shows, over 1.5 million lights, costumed characters, carousel rides and more! NOPEC also participates at many events throughout the year with the Metroparks.



LIBRARY PROGRAM

Through the NOPEC Energy Explorers program, we work with local libraries to provide age-appropriate energy reading materials and activity books. NOPEC's community outreach team also leads energy education sessions with hands-on learning activities like the NOPEC Energy Bike.



MOVIE NIGHTS AT BLOSSOM WITH THE CLEVELAND ORCHESTRA

In 2023, NOPEC was the presenting sponsor of The Cleveland Orchestra's Movie Nights at Blossom with a lineup of six special movie nights accompanied by The Cleveland Orchestra. Over 50,000 visitors came to Movie Nights!

LAKE COUNTY CAPTAINS

NOPEC was once again a sponsor of the Lake County Captains, helping fans celebrate with the NOPEC Energy Meter. Plus, NOPEC sponsored the Lake County Captains Halloween themed event, where attendees enjoyed trick or treat stations, costume contests, and more!



STEM EDUCATION

Since 2016, NOPEC has been a sponsor of Ohio Energy Project (OEP) to help energize in-person and virtual classrooms with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) Design Challenges. Over 10,000 Ohio students have participated in energy education through this sponsorship since 2016.

ENERGY SAVINGS CENTER

NOPEC's Energy Savings Center is your destination for tips to use throughout your home. Plus, you can sign up to receive a monthly newsletter with even more resources and home maintenance reminders delivered straight to your inbox.

For more information

Visit nopec.org/energycenter.



WORKING TOGETHER TO BE OUR CUSTOMERS' VOICE



2023 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Community leaders, elected officials, stakeholders, and industry partners came together for NOPEC's 23rd General Assembly Meeting on November 14. In our commitment to accessibility, we continue to offer both in-person and virtual attendance options for this meeting.

Notably enhancing this year's General Assembly, NOPEC introduced a Lunch and Learn session after the meeting where a distinguished industry expert reviewed the intricacies of the energy marketplace and how NOPEC is managing those factors.

AGGREGATION UPDATES

Chuck Keiper, NOPEC's Executive Director, provided insight into the unique challenges NOPEC faced this year including NOPEC's unconditional recertification from the PUCO, our outreach and consistent communication with our communities and consumers, and the ultimate re-enrollment of NOPEC's electric customers at a stable, affordable rate.

SUSTAINABILITY AND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

Aaron Marcovy, NOPEC's Community Investment & Economic Development Director, gave an update on the past year's community investment and sustainability initiatives. Aaron spoke about the NOPEC Energized Community Grants, Preferred Partner Network, Savings Through Efficiency Program (STEP), and Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program. We also introduced two new programs—the LED Easy-Bulb Program and the Small Business Energy Audit Program—as well as new



partnerships with the Industrial Heartland Solar Coalition, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, the Cleveland 2030 District, World Kinect, and Energy Coalition Ohio. Aaron concluded his speech by welcoming NOPEC's first Director of Resiliency and Sustainability, Deepa Vedavyas. To learn more about NOPEC's sustainability and community investment initiatives, visit nopec.org/sustainability.

NOPEC FOUNDATION

Joseph Ruby, NOPEC Foundation's Board Chairman, recapped the Foundation's first round of charitable

donations that took place in 2023. Through a unique partnership with the Cleveland Foundation, the NOPEC Foundation was able to ratify its giving guidelines and policies and sculpt an effective program. Through this partnership, these foundations introduced a never-before-seen decision-making process that included input from a group of NOPEC's staff. In 2023, the NOPEC Foundation reached over \$240,000 in charitable donations to 26 organizations for causes that include social services, food insecurity, environmental initiatives, community development, and more.

LUNCH AND LEARN

At the conclusion of the General Assembly Meeting, attendees were given the opportunity to stick around for an energy market seminar presented by Doug Condon, NOPEC's Hedging Consultant and Managing Director at Three Rivers Energy. While attendees enjoyed lunch, Doug spoke about the deregulated energy market, how NOPEC manages energy price risk, and factors that affect the price of energy, followed by a Q&A session.

NOPEC has been advocating for Ohio residents, businesses, and communities for over 20 years. In 2023, NOPEC continued our advocacy efforts to protect energy consumers from unreasonable utility rate increases and unfair regulation, while preserving consumer choice in Ohio.

OPPOSING MERGER THAT COULD INCREASE ELECTRICITY PRICES:

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Case No. EC23-74-000

In March 2023, Vistra Corp announced they were acquiring Energy Harbor Corp in a merger transaction. Energy Harbor owns two nuclear power plants in northern Ohio, and both companies compete directly with NOPEC in the Ohio electric aggregation market. NOPEC and others, including the Office of Ohio Consumers Counsel (OCC), intervened and filed protests opposing the proposed merger at FERC, with independent expert studies concluding that the merger will result in increased electricity prices in Ohio. Other parties,

including the Independent Market Monitor for PJM Interconnection and the U.S Department of Justice Antitrust Division also filed comments. After finding the applicants' initial merger application deficient, Vistra agreed to sell two generation facilities in Ohio and cure the deficiencies. In February 2024, FERC approved the merger application with conditions, including the sale of the two generating plants. NOPEC intends to monitor the merged companies' future activities in Ohio to protect Ohio consumers from price increases as a result of the merger.

OPPOSING DOMINION ENERGY OHIO RATE INCREASE:

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) Case No 23-23-894-GA-AIR et al

In September 2023, Dominion Energy Ohio filed a notice with the PUCO to increase its gas distribution rates in Ohio by about \$275 million per year. NOPEC has intervened in the case and is opposing the rate increase, together with other intervenors including the OCC. It is expected that hearings will be held in the 3rd quarter of 2024.

INCREASING RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT IN OHIO:

Ohio Legislature- Substitute HB 197- Community Solar in Ohio

HB 197 would authorize the development of Community Solar developments in the state of Ohio. NOPEC has been working with the bill's sponsoring organizations to support this bill which would increase renewable energy development in Ohio. The bill is currently pending in the Ohio House of Representatives.

ADVOCATING FOR CUSTOMER REFUNDS FOR ILLEGAL PAYMENTS:

PUCO Case 17-974-EL-UNC et al. (FirstEnergy PUCO audit cases regarding HB 6 payments)

NOPEC has filed to intervene in the four audit case investigations opened by the PUCO regarding unlawful payments made by FirstEnergy in connection with the HB 6 scandal involving former FirstEnergy executives, former PUCO Chair Randazzo, former Ohio Speaker of the House and former lobbyists for FirstEnergy. Together with other parties in the case, NOPEC will be advocating for customer refunds if the audits and discovery in the case reveal that customers have been charged for illegal payments made by the company.

**WORKING
TOGETHER TO
PROTECT OHIO
RATEPAYERS**



TOGETHER, WE HELP PROTECT OUR PLANET

NOPEC remains committed to supporting sustainability efforts within our communities. In 2023, we expanded our sustainability offerings to include resources for small businesses and residents as well as municipalities. Through the creation of programs like the LED Easy-Bulb Program and NOPEC's Small Business Energy Audit Program, we are intent on making sustainability resources accessible for all.

SUPPORTING RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

NOPEC offers a variety of programs for communities, residents, and small businesses that support the development of renewable energy projects in the U.S. and Ohio. These include multiple electric program options backed by Renewable Energy Credits for 100% of the electricity used for residents and small businesses. Communities can even get 100% renewable energy content electricity at cost for their municipal loads. **In 2023, NOPEC retired 287,000 RECs for a total of over 9.9 million RECs retired since 2017.**

In addition, NextEra Energy Resources ("NextEra") contributes a portion of the NOPEC aggregation revenues to the EarthEra® Renewable Energy Trust (EarthEra® Trust). Funds from the trust are used to develop NextEra renewable energy projects in the United States, including Ohio. **Since 2017, NextEra has contributed nearly \$100 million from NOPEC's aggregation programs into the EarthEra® Trust.**

NOPEC continues to work with NextEra to identify opportunities in Ohio to expand the renewable energy capacity in the state.

GREEN COMMUNITY CHOICE PROGRAM

Through this program, communities elect to make a renewable energy option, via Green-e® Energy Certified Renewable Energy Credits, the default electric program for their community. Starting in June 2023, South Euclid, Sheffield Village, Cleveland Heights, and Lakewood were the first communities to participate in the Green Community Choice Program.

SUSTAINABILITY FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

In 2023, NOPEC listened to small businesses. We found that many small businesses were eligible for energy efficiency financing but did not have the resources to complete a common prerequisite—an energy audit. In response, we created the Small Business Energy Audit Program through which small businesses in NOPEC communities are eligible to receive grants of up to 100% of the costs associated with securing an energy audit. We also established NOPEC's Preferred Partner Network to provide small businesses with a list of trusted energy audit partners who have committed to an elevated response time and high quality of service.

SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERSHIPS

In 2023, NOPEC formed meaningful connections and partnerships with organizations that share our passion for sustainability. We became the only governmental aggregation to sign the Industrial Heartland Solar Coalition, a multi-state proposal to the EPA to help facilitate federal funds to be spent on solar

initiatives across the Midwest. We also became the only government aggregation to be a member of the Cleveland 2030 District, an organization dedicated to reducing the environmental impact of building construction and operations. We assisted in the facilitation of both the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's Summit on Sustainability and the Ohio Energy Conference, moderating discussions on grassroots ways to enhance sustainability and resiliency in Ohio. Plus, working with World Kinect Energy Services, NOPEC is piloting the new Sustainability Technical Assistance Resources (S.T.A.R.) Program that would provide our communities with a road map and the resources necessary to pursue their decarbonization and energy efficiency goals through in-depth carbon inventories of municipal buildings, solar readiness site assessments, and technical sustainability guidance.

For more information

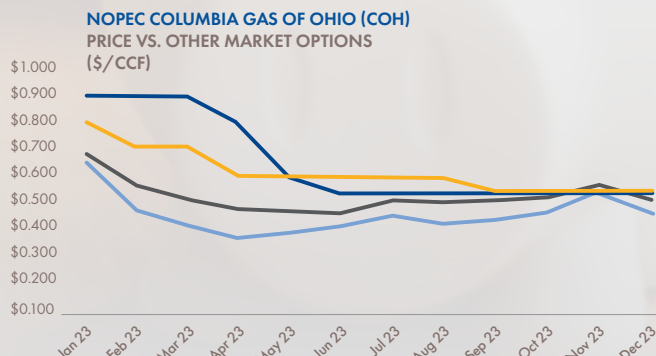
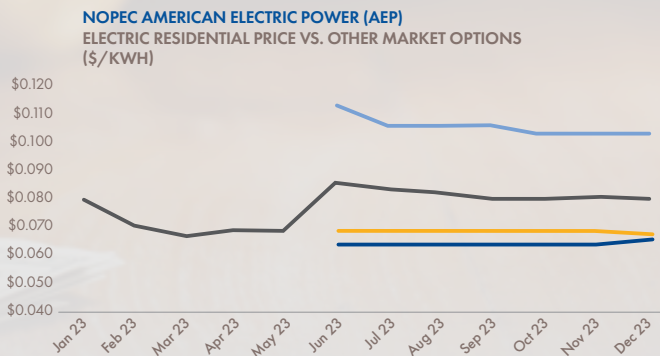
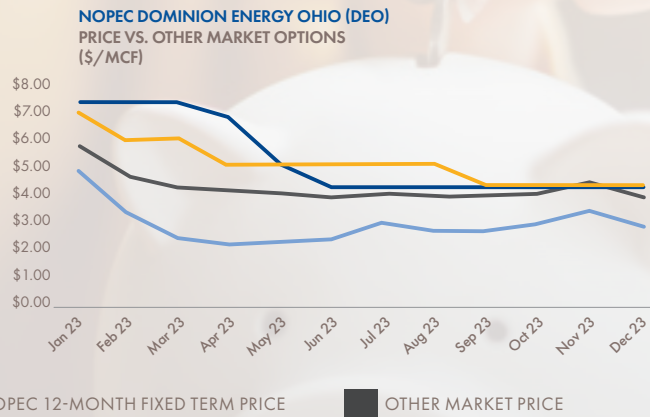
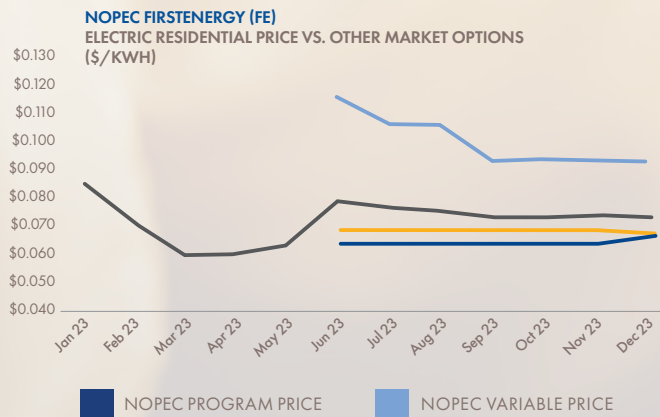
About NOPEC's sustainability efforts, visit nopec.org/sustainability.



TOGETHER, WE ARE KEEPING ENERGY RATES AFFORDABLE

NOPEC offers stable, competitive electric and natural gas rates negotiated exclusively for residents and small businesses in NOPEC member communities.

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2023



ELECTRIC CHART PRICE COMPARISON NOTES:

1. NOPEC's FE Program Price is blended for the FE Residential Portfolio (CEI/OE 68%/32%)
2. NOPEC Variable Price (FE & AEP) is a 6% discount to the Utility's Price to Compare (PTC)
3. "Others" represents the blended average 12-month term offers published by the largest Retail Electric Suppliers* on EnergyChoiceOhio.gov and the PTC (FE 76%/24%; AEP 48%/52%).
4. NOPEC's electric aggregation restarted June 2023. For more information, see the article on page 6 of this report.

* Includes the largest retail electric suppliers based on sales volume as reported in PUCO submitted annual reports as of YE 2022

NATURAL GAS CHARTS PRICE COMPARISON NOTES:

1. NOPEC Variable Price is \$0.02/MCF (or \$0.002/CCF) discount to the utility Standard Choice Offer (SCO).
2. "Others" represents the blended price of the average 12-month term offers published by the largest Retail Gas Suppliers* on EnergyChoiceOhio.gov and the SCO (DEO 63%/37%; COH 56%/44%)

* Includes largest retail gas suppliers based on sales volume as reported in PUCO submitted annual reports as of YE 2022

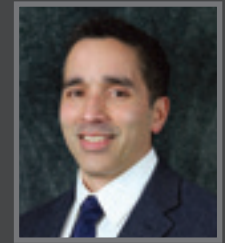
FINANCIALS

REVENUE	JAN - DEC 23 unaudited-preliminary	JAN - DEC 22 audited
Management Fees - Electric	9,972,343	7,858,478
Management Fees - Natural Gas	3,899,521	4,293,665
Grants - Electric & Natural Gas	4,609,710	4,889,975
Investment Income	1,429,540	605,979
Program and Other Income	2,659,002	404,841
TOTAL REVENUES	22,570,116	18,052,938
EXPENSES		
Commercial Programs	71,436	174,647
Community Event Sponsorships	290,625	302,750
Legal Expense	878,234	1,427,865
Computer - IT Support	80,523	92,591
Professional Fees	67,441	55,794
Communications & Consulting	473,748	382,847
Grant to NOPEC, Inc.	11,297,055	7,670,200
Marketing and Support Services	1,849,594	1,227,969
Relationship Management	74,972	74,098
Office and Other General Expense	308,869	258,572
Staff Salaries	1,979,696	1,910,374
Staff Fringe Benefits	725,937	629,986
Meetings and Travel	149,710	96,494
Depreciation Expense	53,082	54,141
TOTAL EXPENSE	18,300,922	14,358,328
NET INCOME	4,269,194	3,694,610

Note: This report represents the most up-to-date information at the time of publication. Investment Income does not include any unrealized portfolio gains/(losses) at year end. The effects of GASB 68/75 reporting (related to Pension and Other Post-Employment Benefits) have been omitted as they have no financial bearing on the fiscal operation of NOPEC.

TOGETHER, CREATING A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES

Through a wide range of programs, NOPEC's Economic Development team helps member communities reduce their energy usage.



NOPEC ENERGIZED COMMUNITY (NEC) GRANT PROGRAM

Awarded more than \$48 million in energy-efficiency grants for projects including LED lighting upgrades, energy-efficient windows, solar powered LED signs, and more.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY FINANCING

Offered low-interest loans up to \$1,000,000 for energy improvement projects on commercial, municipal, and industrial buildings.

NEW NOPEC SMALL BUSINESS ENERGY AUDIT PROGRAM

Covers 60% - 100% of the cost of a qualifying energy audit, providing small business owners with recommendations to reduce their energy usage.

NEW PREFERRED PARTNER NETWORK

Provides a list of Preferred Energy Audit Partners to make energy audits more accessible for small businesses.

For more information, reach out to NOPEC's Economic Development Team.

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ON TOWARD
TOMORROW....

TOGETHER.



www.nopec.org

The Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) is a governmental energy aggregation that supplies electricity and natural gas to hundreds of thousands of residential and small business customers in 240 member communities in 20 Ohio counties. Since 2001, NOPEC has saved Ohio consumers hundreds of millions of dollars on energy costs. For more information about NOPEC, visit nopec.org.