



Sustainable Columbus Community Choice Aggregation

Aggregation in Action

September 24, 2020

Today's purpose is to discuss how our aggregation program will work

Specifically, we hope to:

- Provide a refresher on the Sustainable Columbus Community Choice Aggregation Timeline
- Discuss how we anticipate the Community Choice Aggregation program will operate
- Ask for your feedback on how we plan to operate the program

Your input will allow us to further develop our policy approach

How we would like to work together

The role we hope you will play

1. Provide input on sustainability-focused community priorities
2. Share information on aggregation with your organization and community members

Suggested group norms

1. Use video whenever possible
2. Minimize distractions
3. Practice the democracy of time
4. *Anything else?*

A few Zoom reminders for today

Advisory Group Members:

- **Please mute** when not speaking
- Please *also* **use the chat function to react**, ask questions, and comment!
- Please **rename yourself with name and org** by right clicking on the 3 dots on your image
- **Please note:** this meeting is being recorded and will be shared publicly

Members of the public observing: Welcome! Please ask questions at any time, and we will address these at two points during the agenda.



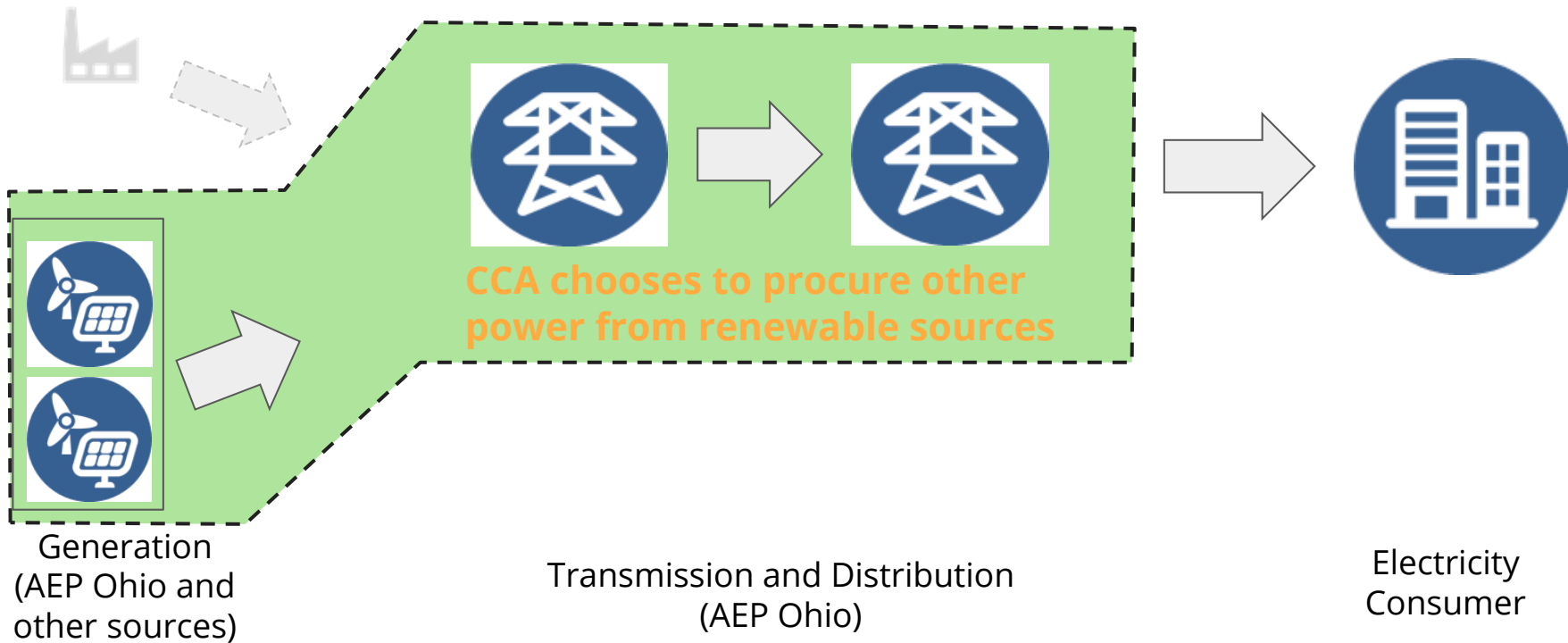
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ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

Sustainable Columbus Community Choice Aggregation Refresher

What are we trying to achieve?

Columbus will use our energy supply contract for 100% renewable electricity



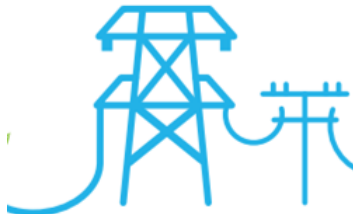
Aggregation will have multiple benefits for Columbus



RENEWABLE ENERGY

100% CLEAN ENERGY

Columbus' goal is 100% clean, renewable energy by 2022 and to be carbon neutral by 2050. Clean energy can include sources such as wind and solar.



SAME RELIABLE SERVICE

CLEAN ENERGY JOBS

Community choice aggregation creates demand for local renewable energy sources and good paying jobs that support workforce development in the clean energy industry.



YOUR COMMUNITY CHOICE

COMMUNITY CHOICE

The City bulk-purchases energy on behalf of residents and small businesses, providing competitive pricing and local control of the energy source. Residents receive the same service & bill from AEP. Participation is voluntary and residents can opt-out at any time.

Aggregation will also support public health

Renewable energy displaces generation from coal and natural gas plants and reduces pollution in our air.

- A renewable energy project generating 1.4 million MWh could result in \$49 million of public health benefits every year.*
- That means reduced risk of:
 - heart attacks,
 - irregular heartbeat,
 - aggravated asthma, and
 - decreased lung function

... for people in our region



These benefits are for EVERYONE, whether or not you participate in the aggregation program

Refresher - Key Milestones



Aggregation Advisory Group Meets

4 meetings between now and November



Election held

Columbus residents given a chance to vote for aggregation



PUCO grants license to operate

City submits operations and Governance plan for approval; enter into master supply agreement (MSA)



Aggregation Program Launches

Residents receive opt-out notices, and all eligible residential and commercial customers are enrolled

What we have heard so far

You said:	We are responding:
<p>We need to think carefully about how to clearly communicate aggregation for those <i>not</i> on the standard service offer (e.g. those who have shopped for other agreements)</p>	<p>We would like to test some ideas on this with you today, drawing on peer program practices.</p>
<p>We need to clearly explain public health benefits.</p>	<p>We are incorporating public health into our messaging and will share some of this with you today.</p>
<p>It is not yet clear how this program can benefit those on payment assistance programs given state eligibility requirements.</p>	<p>We will share some updates on our options under state law and discuss mechanisms for how the program can support affordability in meeting</p>

In Ohio, we are limited in who we are allowed to enroll in an aggregation program

- Customers in the Percentage of Income Payment Program (PIPP) are specifically not permitted (*per OAC 4901:1-21-16 and 4901:1-21-17*)
 - The State Development department may aggregate these customers for competitive supply separately
 - Exclusion does not apply to LIHEAP customers

The City has limited ability to change this requirement. However:

- Because of the percentage of income requirements in PIPP, these **residents will still pay less than they would under the CCA**
- Public health and economic development **benefits will be shared** amongst all Columbus residents, regardless of actual participation in the program
- Community programming will provide an opportunity to support and engage these residents

Temperature Check

- **What questions do you have from last meeting?**
- **Have we captured this feedback correctly?**



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ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

Sustainable Columbus Community Choice Aggregation - What will we do?

What is the day-to-day work of aggregation?

- The work of **contracting an energy supplier** (periodic)
- **Enrolling or disenrolling all eligible residents** according to their preference
 - At the beginning of the program
 - Periodic sweeps to ID new residents (minimum quarterly)
 - Proactive communication with residents who have chosen another energy supplier
- **Helping residents with any questions** they have
- Ensuring the aggregation program is **meeting community goals for public health, economic development, equity, and sustainability**

How will the city maintain participation / communication?

- Through **sweeps typically completed quarterly** (maybe more frequently for Columbus due to its size).
 - These are mailings to new accounts only opened since the previous opt out mailing.
 - Lists are provided by the utility AEP Ohio.
- By offering a **competitive product**. The rate and type of energy should be competitive with other available programs.
- By offering **superior customer service**
- By showing residents that their program participation leads to **value sustainability programming**

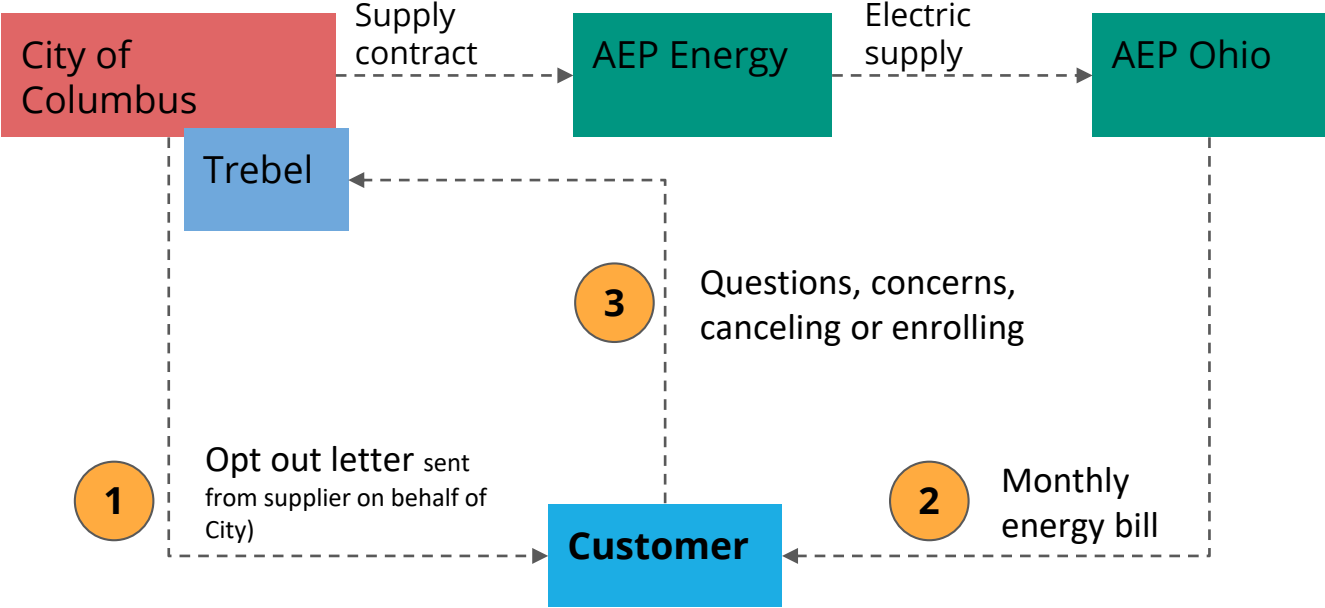
A resident will interact with the program in 3 primary ways

- 1 Receiving an opt out letter (if eligible) from the City or a program notification if currently using another energy supplier
- 2 Receiving a **monthly electricity bill** from AEP Ohio
- 3 Special circumstances: Asking **questions**, sharing **concerns**, **canceling** participation or **enrolling**

Down the line...

- 4 *Once established, residents may also get involved in community-oriented programming supported by the CCA*

Behind the scenes, it looks like this





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ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

Sustainable Columbus Community Choice Aggregation - The details

What are the team members' positions?

The Community Choice Aggregation Team

City CCA Team

Erin Beck - Policy
Alana Shockey and Jenna Tipaldi - Sustainability
Sam Schneider- Technical

Trebel, LLC - CCA Consultant

Scott Belcastro, Principal
Trebel LLC



AEP Energy - Preferred Energy Supplier

Scott Slisher, Chief Solutions Officer
Frank Willson



Workstreams

General Community Education and Outreach

Erin Beck

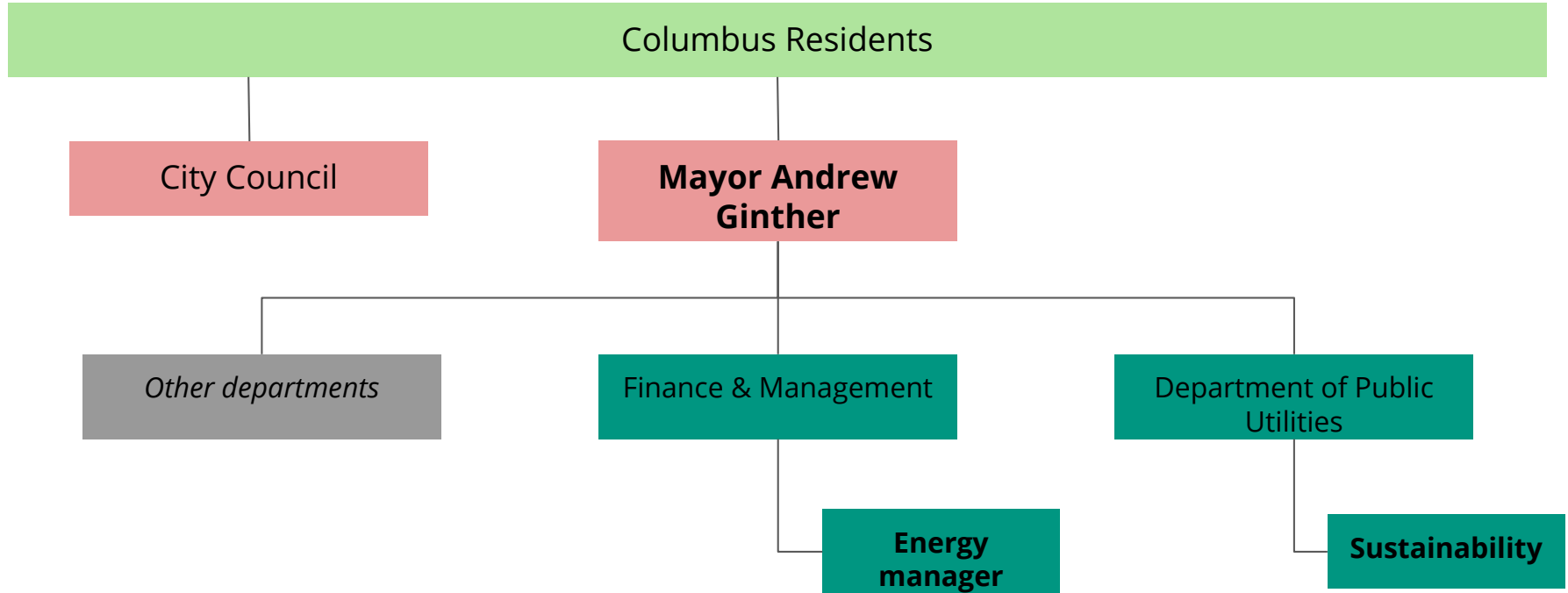
Aggregation Advisory Committee

Alana Shockey
Jenna Tipaldi

Program Implementation Planning

Scott Belcastro
Scott Slisher
Sam Schneider

Responsibility for implementation will rest with two departments



The City Team



How residents will interact with the city for Aggregation

- Provide residents with aggregation information on their website
- Direct residents to Trebel for education/customer service
- Provide sustainability programming (long-term aim)

Trebel will be helping to set up and run our aggregation program



- Trebel, LLC is a national energy consulting company serving commercial, governmental, small business and residential clients primarily throughout the deregulated energy markets.
- Trebel is a leader in Community Aggregation for Townships / Villages / Cities / Counties
- Over 160 combined electric and natural gas programs under management

Trebel's role:

- Provide **customer service** for residents
- Oversee the **customer enrollment and switching process** to the selected energy supplier from the regulated utility.
- Manage relationship between community and supplier(s)

AEP Energy is the Preferred Energy Supplier

- A wholly owned subsidiary of American Electric Power (AEP) and affiliate of AEP Ohio
- Part of AEP's **competitive businesses** covering renewables, behind the meter generation, wholesale and retail energy supply.
- **Does not represent or act on behalf of AEP Ohio.** It is a PUCO certified competitive retail electricity and natural gas supplier.
- Serves **over 500,000 customers in 27 utility service territories**

AEP Energy's role (anticipated):

- Provide the electricity for the CCA program customers
 - Local and new wind and solar at cost competitive rates
- Provide funding for city-administered funds to support community priorities

The key tenets of governance will be reviewed and approved by the Public Utility Commission of Ohio (PUCO)

Governance and Operations Plan will cover:

- Definitions
- Program set up: Selection of energy supplier, identifying eligible accounts, consumer notification and enrollment
- Aggregation Program Management: billing procedures, sweeps, questions and concerns
- Termination of the Aggregation Program

Approving the Plan:

- Public notified over two weeks
- Two public hearings conducted prior to being adopted by City Council
- Columbus files an application with the PUCO to become a Certified Governmental Aggregator
- PUCO approves the plan
- Any revisions require an additional public hearing.

Temperature Check

- What questions do you have?



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Exercise!

How will we achieve our goals

We could use your help designing outreach

- We will divide into two groups:
 - One group will help us design materials and outreach strategies for **people who currently shop/use an energy supplier**
 - The second group will give input for how to inform **residents on energy assistance** about the aggregation program

Come back @ 11:25 to close

Suggested Groups

Group 1: NEW ZOOM (link in chat)

- Sarah Spence
- Holly Gross
- Ebony Williams
- Mark Patton
- Ed moore
- Rachel Wagner
- Frank Willson
- Erin Beck
- Scott Belcastro
- Alek Suni

Group 2: Stay here

- Councilmember Dorans
- Laura Recchie
- Peg Williams
- Jon-Paul d'Aversa
- Beth Urban
- Larry Price
- Deb Steele
- Alana Shockey
- Sam Schneider

Groupings are only suggestions based on interest and getting even numbers; please choose which feels most of interest.

Group 1: Shoppers for energy supply

If you shopped for your energy supply contract:

- What information would help you understand the aggregation program?
- How would you like to receive it?

We'll review a sample together and then discuss

Group 1: Shoppers for energy supply - Sample Bulletin

Aggregation Bulletin

(This is NOT an opt out notice. No action required.)

Residents and Businesses of [Jurisdiction]

You have received this letter because our records indicate you are currently not an “eligible customer” to participate in the township aggregation program. Most likely, you were/are receiving generation from another supplier. As a courtesy to those of you who are not initially eligible, we are providing this letter to notify you of the aggregation programs terms and conditions and that you can join at any time. This letter provides you with the appropriate contacts should you have questions or would like to join either of the township’s aggregation programs.

Introduction to the program and why the customer is receiving this bulletin

Group 1: Shoppers for energy supply - Sample Bulletin

Electric Aggregation Program

[Jurisdiction] is providing you with the opportunity to join with other residents to save money on the electric you use. Savings are possible through a concept called government aggregation, where Township officials bring together citizens to gain group-buying power for the purchase of electric from a retail supplier certified by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. Township voters approved this program in November 2016.

Under this arrangement, [Supplier Name] has been selected as your Townships preferred electricity provider. [Supplier Name] is an Ohio-based company.

Through your Township Electric Aggregation Program *eligible* residents and businesses will be receiving a rate of \$0.0469. This program began in May 2020 and will be available through May 2023. There is no cost for the enrollment and you will not be charged a switching fee.

Description of the program

Group 1: Shoppers for energy supply - Sample Bulletin

Budget billing of the entire bill is available to anyone who chooses prefers budget certainty. As with the utility you will still be required to request the service directly from the supplier. Energy Harbor can be reached at the toll-free number listed below.

The AEP Ohio portion of your bill can also be budgeted. In order to have this service in place please call AEP Ohio direct at 1-800-672-2231.

To join the aggregation program or to set up budget billing for the supplier portion of the bill, you can reach [Supplier Name] toll-free at 1-XXX-XXX-XXXX, Monday through Friday, 8a.m. to 5 p.m.

Questions regarding the aggregation program, how to join the program or any questions regarding your specific existing energy services can be directed toward the Townships consultant Scott Belcastro of Trebel, LLC at 877-861-2772.

Information about
budget billing and
who to contact with
questions

Group 1: Shoppers for energy supply - Sample Bulletin

If you already have a supplier, under contract or not, and would like to inquire about joining the aggregation please follow the simple steps below.

1. Call your existing supplier first. Ask them what the early termination fee is to leave them as a supplier.
 - a. If there is zero early termination fee then ask the supplier too place your account back with the utility.
 - b. If there is an early termination fee then you must decide if it's worth leaving the supplier early to join the aggregation. If you still want to proceed with joining the Aggregation then direct the supplier to place your account back with the utility.
2. Call the aggregation supplier, listed on the front of this letter, and tell them you would like to join the community aggregation. Be specific about which community.

Description of how to learn about your current terms with another supplier

Group 1: Discussion

- What about that example worked well?
- What should be different?
- What can Columbus do to maximize enrollment and help customers who shop for energy understand the new aggregation program?

Group 2: Customers on Percentage of Income Payment Program

- How can the City best reach out to residents? Where do you think people are finding out about new energy options?
- Given regulatory barriers, how can the city best support and engage low-income residents who are not eligible to join the CCA?

Note: Meeting 4 will focus entirely on programming that the CCA can support, including, potentially, low income Columbus residents. Our conversation today will help tee up that conversation

To recap: while there are limits to program participation, many benefits of aggregation are shared

- Because of the percentage of income requirements in PIPP, these **residents will still pay less than they would under the CCA**
- **Public health and economic development benefits will be shared** amongst all Columbus residents, regardless of actual participation in the program
- Community programming will provide an opportunity to support and engage these residents

Share Back & Discussion

- What did your group suggest?

Our next meetings together

Meeting #1: Introductions and Aggregation 101 - September 10

Meeting #2: Aggregation in Action - Overview of Governance and Operation - TODAY

Meeting #3: Columbus' Renewable Energy Future - October 8

Meeting #4: Community Priorities and Sustainability Goals - October 22

Meeting #5: Wrap Up/Next Steps

THANK YOU!