



Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council



ANNUAL REPORT

Letter from the Chairman



NOPEC is pleased to present our 2009 annual report.

As NOPEC begins its second decade of providing lower-cost energy to Northeast Ohio residents and businesses, I want to note our historic accomplishments in 2009.

We took bold and significant actions in 2009 that heightened NOPEC's well-earned reputation as an influential force for consumers in our region's energy markets.

Our achievements in 2009 guarantee energy savings valued at tens of millions of dollars in the years to come – providing a welcome economic boost to the northeast Ohio economy.

NOPEC's success in 2009 started with our efforts in 2008, when NOPEC labored long and hard at the Statehouse to promote the passage of Senate Bill 221. All of northeast Ohio should join us in saluting those who supported that important legislation, which resulted in numerous pro-consumer adjustments to the state's utility laws.

We seized upon those new and improved provisions soon after Gov. Ted Strickland signed SB221 into law in 2008.

We negotiated two significant contracts in 2009 for the supply of electricity to our customers that resulted in substantially lower electric rates. We were aggressive and informed, and our good efforts have yielded – and will continue to yield – huge cost savings for northeast Ohio.

NOPEC also continues to offer our natural gas program, where we have traditionally put forth a reliable and competitive product in a market that is unpredictable and sometimes even volatile. Most of our gas customers prefer the security of fixed rate agreements, though NOPEC also offers a very competitive variable rate program as well.

Formed in 2000, NOPEC serves hundreds of thousands of customers in 129 communities spread across nine northeast Ohio counties. We are an excellent example of successful regional cooperation.

For 10 years, NOPEC has worked hard to bring low cost energy to northeast Ohio. We look forward to another decade of serving as our region's utility watchdog.

Sincerely,

Joseph Migliorini
Chairman, NOPEC Board of Directors

Board of Directors



Mr. Joseph Migliorini
NOPEC Chairman
Summit County



Commissioner William Young
NOPEC Vice-Chairman
Gauga County



City Manager Jack Haney
Newton Falls (Trumbull County)



Commissioner Charles Keiper II
Portage County



Mayor Tony Krasienko
City of Lorain (Lorain County)



Ronald McVoy
Ashtabula County



Mayor Thomas O'Grady
North Olmsted (Cuyahoga County)



Commissioner Daniel Troy
Lake County



City Manager Robert Zienkowski
City of Brunswick (Medina County)



Leigh Herington
Executive Director, NOPEC

Frequently Asked Questions



Q: What is NOPEC?

A: Under Ohio law, local governments may band together into an aggregation, or buying group. There are 129 member communities in Northeast Ohio, having formed an aggregation named the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC). Voters in these communities authorized this action beginning in the November, 2000 Election. NOPEC – which is non-profit - represents residents and small businesses customers in Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage, Summit and Trumbull Counties. NOPEC is the largest such public energy aggregation in the United States.

Q: What is the value in NOPEC for me?

A: The theory behind public aggregation is simple: By using bulk purchasing power, greater savings can be passed on to individual consumers. By joining together, consumers in NOPEC communities gain the ability to utilize a team of experienced professionals to negotiate for better prices and protections. NOPEC ensures that communities have a voice in determining that future market changes benefit consumers. Large groups of communities such as NOPEC enjoy substantial leverage in making these determinations. Without an organization like NOPEC, consumers would be left to decide on their own which supplier to choose, and would be at the mercy of the supplier.

Q: Who is in charge of this group?

A: Ultimately, the consumers themselves, through the views they express to their local elected officials. NOPEC is governed by a General Assembly, made up of one representative from each community. From this group, a nine-member Board of Directors is elected, with one representative from each of the nine counties in the NOPEC service area. In addition, the General Assembly elects a Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Q: What does all this cost?

A: NOPEC receives no public funds, and its member communities are not charged any dues or fees. The Chairman and Members of the Board of Directors serve without compensation. NOPEC's administrative expenses, such as the cost of the opt-out mailings, are paid by the energy supplier.

Q: How do I join the buying group?

A: If you live in a NOPEC community, you are automatically included, unless you choose not to be. Ohio has what is called an "opt-out" procedure. This means that all eligible customers of an aggregated community become part of the buying group unless they take specific action to opt out of the aggregation. Opt-out notices are sent to every eligible natural gas consumer every two years. Under Ohio law (SB221) electricity customers may receive an opt-out notice every three years.

Q: What is the difference between NOPEC and other energy suppliers?

A: Unlike the many private, for-profit concerns now marketing in Ohio, NOPEC is a public aggregation of local governments, with no goal other than delivering both savings and stability to the consumers it represents. To that end, it is concerned with a long-term approach to the energy market as well as short-term savings. NOPEC recognizes that long-term savings for consumers will result from regulatory changes and new laws that must be passed, and is dedicated to representing the interests of its consumers in seeking those changes.

Private, for-profit energy suppliers are focused on short-term offers. Their positions on regulatory changes and laws likely will be aimed at their own bottom lines rather than the interests of consumers.

Q: How can I compare NOPEC to offers from other energy suppliers?

A: One of the hallmarks of energy deregulation is that each consumer is free to make his or her own decisions, and all the factors involved should be carefully weighed. The difference in purpose between NOPEC and private suppliers is certainly one of those factors. In terms of pricing, consumers should be wary of gimmicks and "loss leader" giveaways, in which short-term savings are promised, with no long-range guarantees of continued savings. For natural gas customers, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) publishes an "apples to apples" chart available at www.puco.ohio.gov.

Financials



REVENUES	Jan - Dec 09	Jan - Dec 08
Interest Income	32,506	296,083
Management Fees- Electric	1,559,000	1,097,271
Management Fees- Natural Gas	1,819,077	2,489,670
Other Fees	131,561	-604
Total Revenues	3,542,144	3,882,420
EXPENSE	Jan - Dec 09	Jan - Dec 08
Advertising	1,375	1,000
Aggregation Services	0	0
Annual Report	3,760	0
Communication Services	78,750	24,000
Community training	12,000	12,605
Computer Support	2,046	2,739
Consulting, Gas & Electric	20,128	37,090
Contract Labor	3,312	1,642
CRES Development Fund	201,831	152,504
Depreciation Expense	10,062	5,569
Energy Conserv. Grant	0	0
Furnishings, new office	0	14,961
Insurance	3,384	3,757
Legal	392,374	392,969
Media	51,529	0
Media - Web site exp	1,950	500
Meetings	10,595	10,606
Membership, assoc. & training	4,250	3,608
Office Supplies	17,637	13,047
Postage and Delivery	1,087	480
Professional Fees	72,624	40,500
Rent/Maint/RE Tax	3,642	2,000
Staff fringe benefits/PR tax	73,965	41,355
Staff salaries	200,374	189,645
Telephone	9,147	8,572
Travel	14,496	10,367
Utilities	3,423	3,702
Total Expenses	1,193,741	973,217
	2,348,403	2,909,202
OTHER INCOME/EXPENSE	Jan - Dec 09	Jan - Dec 08
Other Expense		
Electric Program discount	0	1,821,560
Total Other Expense	0	1,821,560
		-1,821,560
Revenues in excess of Expenses	2,348,403	1,087,642

ASSETS	Dec 31, 09	Dec 31, 08
Current Assets		
<i>Checking/Savings</i>		
Dollar Bank	1,304,736	235,997
Total Checking/Savings	1,304,736	235,997
<i>Accounts Receivable</i>		
Accounts Receivable	769,362	884,026
Total Accounts Receivable	769,362	884,026
<i>Other Current Assets</i>		
Investment-Star Ohio	12,670,310	11,287,804
Accts Receivable	11,917	1,300
Total Other Current Assets	12,682,227	11,289,104
Total Current Assets	14,756,325	12,409,127
Fixed Assets		
Building	236,229	236,229
Equipment	27,358	26,010
Accum. Depreciation	-16,997	-6,935
Total Fixed Assets	246,590	255,304
Total Assets	15,002,915	12,664,431
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	Dec 31, 09	Dec 31, 08
Liabilities		
<i>Current Liabilities</i>		
Accounts Payable	118,344	102,794
Total Accounts Payable	118,344	102,794
<i>Other Current Liabilities</i>		
Accrued liabilities	0	28,170
Payroll withholdings	5,015	2,312
Total Other Current Liabilities	5,015	30,482
Total Current Liabilities	123,359	133,276
Total Liabilities	123,359	133,276
Fund Balance	12,531,154	11,443,512
Revenues in Excess of Expenses	2,348,402	1,087,642
Total Fund Balance	14,879,556	12,531,154
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	15,002,915	12,664,430

Electric Communities & Savings

Dollar amounts are estimated NOPEC electric rate savings since 2001.

ASHTABULA COUNTY											\$6,630,936
Andover Twp	\$615,859	Ashtabula	\$1,271,863	Ashtabula Twp	\$118,030	Austinburg Twp	\$105,809	Cherry Valley Twp	\$34,552	Colebrook Twp	\$32,384
Conneaut	\$879,256	Denmark Twp	\$49,001	Dorset Twp	\$57,858	Geneva	\$471,307	Geneva Twp	\$225,538	Geneva-on-the-Lake	\$253,251
Harpersfield Twp	\$131,620	Hartsgrove Twp	\$54,337	Jefferson	\$127,601	Jefferson Twp	\$242,222	Kingsville Twp	\$100,399	Lenox Twp	\$83,279
Monroe Twp	\$90,266	Morgan Twp	\$49,607	New Lyme Twp	\$60,414	North Kingsville	\$186,826	Orwell Twp	\$53,843	Orwell Village	\$97,186
Pierpont Twp	\$48,192	Plymouth Twp	\$90,714	Richmond Twp	\$107,837	Roaming Shores	\$92,133	Rock Creek	\$48,992	Rome Twp	\$49,691
Saybrook Twp	\$501,828	Sheffield Twp	\$52,432	Trumbull Twp	\$47,243	Wayne Twp	\$27,647	Williamsfield Twp	\$103,873	Windsor Twp	\$68,049
CUYAHOGA COUNTY											\$43,835,819
Beachwood	\$983,069	Bedford	\$1,060,125	Bedford Hts	\$936,435	Bentleyville	\$56,640	Berea	\$1,284,392	Bratenahl	\$92,136
Brecksville	\$981,347	Broadview Hts	\$1,405,738	Brook Park	\$1,328,213	Brooklyn	\$913,081	Brooklyn Hts	\$181,633	Chagrin Falls	\$441,374
Cuyahoga Hts	\$81,325	East Cleveland	\$908,974	Fairview Park	\$1,322,177	Garfield Hts	\$1,879,179	Glenwillow	\$48,722	Highland Hts	\$577,174
Hunting Valley	\$46,842	Independence	\$550,798	Lakewood	\$4,278,143	Linndale	\$16,899	Lyndhurst	\$1,153,362	Maple Hts	\$1,492,974
Mayfield Village	\$276,353	Middleburg Hts	\$1,293,587	Moreland Hills	\$206,217	Newburgh Hts	\$163,067	North Olmsted	\$2,455,595	North Randall	\$107,975
North Royalton	\$2,114,733	Oakwood	\$289,562	Olmsted Falls	\$687,667	Olmsted Twp	\$672,972	Orange	\$198,837	Parma Hts	\$1,517,285
Pepper Pike	\$371,241	Rocky River	\$1,624,497	Shaker Hts	\$1,914,079	Solon	\$1,593,318	South Euclid	\$1,487,331	Strongsville	\$2,552,230
University Hts	\$839,901	Valley View	\$247,424	Walton Hills	\$184,116	Warrensville Hts	\$1,017,078				
GEAUGA COUNTY											\$3,632,991
Auburn Twp	\$286,184	Bainbridge Twp	\$359,349	Burton (Village)	\$100,583	Chardon	\$406,312	Chardon Twp	\$174,552	Chester Twp	\$513,207
Claridon Twp	\$99,820	Hambden Twp	\$134,404	Huntsburg Twp	\$78,754	Middlefield Village	\$182,183	Middlefield Twp	\$125,403	Montville Twp	\$70,508
Munson Twp	\$226,017	Newbury Twp	\$255,132	Parkman Twp	\$67,850	Russell Twp	\$257,151	South Russell	\$225,096	Thompson Twp	\$70,485
LAKE COUNTY											\$14,186,207
Concord Twp	\$941,330	Eastlake	\$1,434,192	Fairport Harbor	\$263,468	Grand River	\$40,278	Kirtland	\$408,737	Kirtland Hills	\$40,974
Lakeline	\$18,757	Leroy Twp	\$112,016	Madison	\$202,675	Madison Twp	\$494,615	Mentor	\$3,365,316	Mentor-on-the-Lake	\$551,175
Painesville Twp	\$905,590	Perry	N/A	Perry Twp	\$230,592	Timberlake	\$45,156	Waite Hill	\$29,127	Wickliffe	\$999,232
Willoughby	\$2,211,371	Willoughby Hills	\$810,430	Willowick	\$1,081,176						
LORAIN COUNTY											\$13,371,148
Amherst	\$13,887	Amherst Twp	\$183,577	Avon	\$1,386,220	Avon Lake	\$1,607,968	Elyria	\$3,546,966	Lorain	\$4,059,812
North Ridgeville	\$1,604,822	Sheffield Lake	\$613,860	Sheffield Village	\$274,061	South Amherst	\$79,974				
MEDINA COUNTY											\$2,158,531
Brunswick	\$2,158,531										
PORTAGE COUNTY											\$6,136,558
Atwater Twp	\$144,664	Brimfield Twp	\$308,963	Charlestown Twp	\$97,314	Deerfield Twp	\$238,814	Edinburg Twp	\$115,326	Franklin Twp	\$358,876
Freedom Twp	\$129,615	Garrettsville	N/A	Hiram Twp	\$97,339	Hiram Village	\$23,277	Kent	\$2,134,876	Mantua Twp	\$244,403
Nelson Twp	\$115,449	Palmyra Twp	\$104,650	Paris Twp	\$74,417	Randolph Twp	\$227,022	Ravenna	\$68,836	Ravenna Twp	\$531,367
Rootstown Twp	\$450,662	Shalersville Twp	\$252,493	Suffield Twp	\$337,796	Windham Twp	\$80,400				
SUMMIT COUNTY											\$3,252,589
Clinton	\$73,074	Lakemore	\$165,537	Macedonia	\$838,206	Northfield	\$292,121	Peninsula	\$46,779	Reminderville	\$170,649
Twinsburg	\$1,666,223										
TRUMBULL COUNTY											\$1,870,660
Liberty Twp	\$440,823	McDonald	N/A	Warren	\$1,429,837						

Gas Communities



Because there are dozens of options for natural gas, NOPEC dollar savings for gas cannot be tracked.

ASHTABULA COUNTY

Ashtabula (City)	Ashtabula Twp	Conneaut	Geneva (Village)	Geneva-on-the-Lake
Harpersfield Twp	Jefferson Village	Kingsville Twp	North Kingsville	Saybrook Twp

CUYAHOGA COUNTY

Bedford	Bedford Heights	Bentleyville	Berea	Bratenahl
Brecksville	Brook Park	Brooklyn	Brooklyn Heights	Chagrin Falls
Cleveland	Cuyahoga Heights	Fairview Park	Garfield Heights	Glenwillow
Highland Heights	Hunting Valley	Independence	Lakewood	Lyndhurst
Maple Heights	Mayfield Village	Middleburg Heights	Moreland Hills	Newburgh Heights
North Olmsted	North Randall	North Royalton	Oakwood	Olmsted Falls
Olmsted Twp	Orange	Parma	Parma Heights	Pepper Pike
Rocky River	Seven Hills	Solon	South Euclid	Strongsville
University Heights	Valley View	Walton Hills		

GEAUGA COUNTY

Auburn Twp	Bainbridge Twp	Burton (Village)	Burton Twp	Chardon (City)
Chester Twp	Claridon Twp	Hambden Twp	Middlefield (Village)	Munson Twp
Newbury Twp	Russell Twp	South Russell	Troy Twp	

LAKE COUNTY

Concord Twp	Eastlake	Fairport Harbor	Grand River	Kirtland
Kirtland Hills	Leroy Twp	Mentor	Mentor-on-the-Lake	North Perry Village
Painesville Twp	Perry Twp	Timberlake	Waite Hill	Wickliffe
Willoughby	Willoughby Hills	Willowick		

LORAIN COUNTY

Avon	Elyria	Lorain	North Ridgeville	Sheffield Lake
Sheffield Village	South Amherst			

MEDINA COUNTY

Brunswick

PORTAGE COUNTY

Brady Lake	Garrettsville (City)	Hiram Village	Kent	Sugar Bush Knolls
Portage County Townships	Atwater Township	Brimfield Township	Charlestown Township	Deerfield Township
Edinburg Township	Franklin Township	Freedom Township	Hiram Township	Mantua Township
Nelson Township	Palmyra Township	Paris Township	Randolph Township	Ravenna Township
Rootstown Township	Shalersville Township	Suffield Township	Windham Township	

SUMMIT COUNTY

Clinton	Macedonia	Northfield	Reminderville	Sagamore Hills Township
Springfield Township				

TRUMBULL COUNTY

Liberty Township	Newton Falls	Warren		
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Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council

31320 Solon Road, Suite 20
Solon, OH 44139

Gas customer service:
1-888-848-7914

Electric customer service:
1-800-292-9284

www.nopecinfo.org