POWERING OHIO COMMUNITIES

AGGREGATE

EDUCATE

ADVOCATE

PROTECTING OUR PLANET • THRIVING COMMUNITIES • OPERATING WITH INTEGRITY







JUNE 2024 - JUNE 2026

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

NOPEC℠



TABLE OF CONTENTS

3 Letter from the Executive Director and CEO

4 About NOPEC and Our Mission

8 NOPEC's Energy Supply Partner

9 Sustainability at NOPEC

10 Letter from the Director of Resiliency and Sustainability

11 NOPEC's Sustainability Journey and UN SDG Alignment

15 Protecting Our Planet

19 Thriving Communities

26 Operating with Integrity

31 Future Initiatives



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CEO

As we release NOPEC's latest Sustainability Report, we do so at an important moment in our organization's growth. What began as a focus on environmental, social, and governance priorities has evolved into a broader sustainability strategy rooted in how NOPEC serves its member communities through affordability, resiliency, consumer protection, and long-term local value.

For more than 25 years, NOPEC has existed for one purpose: to serve Ohio communities. That responsibility has guided my work throughout my 15 years as CEO. As I prepare to retire at the end of this year, I am proud of NOPEC's direction. The initiatives in this report show an organization continuing to grow, adapt, and meet the changing needs of the communities we serve.

Over the past two years, NOPEC has advanced commitments that will help shape our energy future, including working towards 50% renewable energy content in our default electric offering by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2050. These goals reflect our belief that sustainability must be practical, affordable, and accessible.

That same approach is reflected in the Green Community Choice Program. By negotiating a 53% lower cost for the Renewable Energy Credits that support 100% of participating communities' electricity use, NOPEC helped make cleaner energy choices more affordable for communities and residents.

NOPEC's commitment to community resilience also extends beyond energy supply. Through Neighborhood Next, we are helping connect energy efficiency financing with affordable housing, supporting stronger neighborhoods and long-term community value.

Advocacy remains equally essential to who we are. NOPEC's role in securing $275 million in customer restitution related to the FirstEnergy/HB6 matter reflects our continued commitment to standing up for Ohio energy consumers and holding utilities accountable. Protecting customers and advocating for fair outcomes remain central to NOPEC's mission.

As I look ahead, I am confident in NOPEC's ability to build on this foundation. Our work will remain grounded in listening to our communities, supporting their priorities, and advancing an energy future that is more affordable, reliable, sustainable, and fair.

Together with our Board, member communities, staff, and partners, NOPEC will continue serving Ohio residents and businesses with purpose, integrity, and long-term public value.

Regards,

Chuck Keiper, Executive Director & CEO

WHAT IS NOPEC?

NOPEC is Ohio's largest governmental energy aggregator and has been serving the state's residents and small businesses for over 25 years. Governmental energy aggregation, also known as community choice aggregation (CCA), empowers communities to purchase energy on behalf of their residents and businesses. By joining NOPEC's energy aggregation, communities can combine their buying power with more than 250 other Ohio communities, strengthening price negotiations, securing more competitive rates and terms, increasing price stability, and supporting renewable energy options. Stated simply, energy aggregation turns collective voices into collective savings through a community-driven approach.

WHAT IS ENERGY AGGREGATION?

Energy aggregation follows a stepwise process – the aggregator negotiates with suppliers for competitive rates on behalf of a large customer base; that energy is added to the grid, and the local utility delivers it to homes and businesses as it always has. The customer experiences no change in service – only the benefit of competitively priced energy, made possible by the group's collective strength.



NEGOTIATE SUPPLY RATE

ENERGY ADDED TO GRID

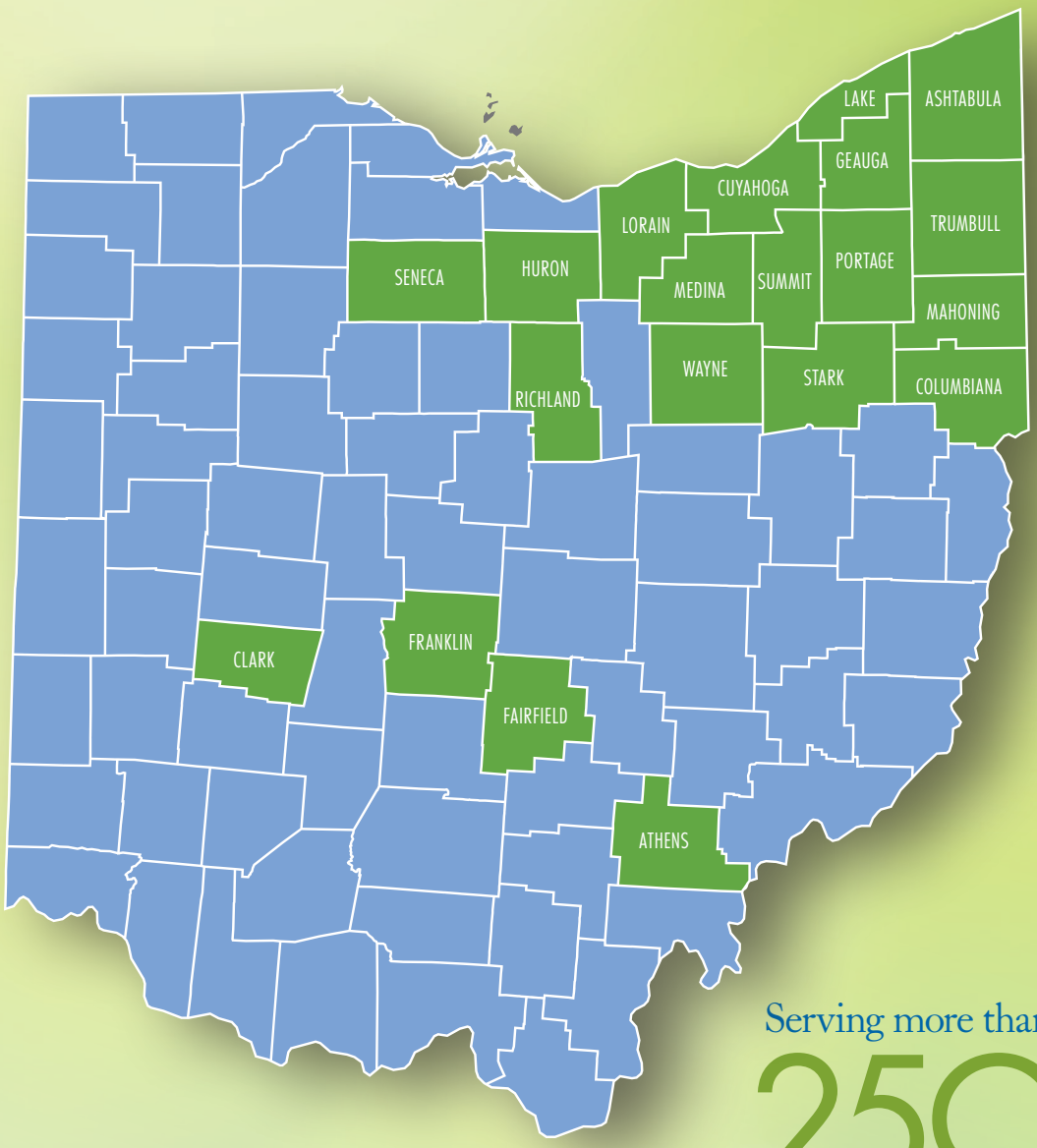
DELIVER TO HOME

BENEFITS OF ENERGY AGGREGATION

- **Competitive pricing** for electricity and natural gas
- **Price stability** during market fluctuations
- **Access** to renewable energy options
- **Local control** with community input
- **Convenience** of collective bargaining power
- Expansion of **consumer choices**
- More **consumer-friendly** terms and conditions

BEYOND ENERGY

While NOPEC is first and foremost an energy aggregator, we understand that truly meaningful impact goes beyond energy savings alone. Our communities and the environment that sustains them are at the center of everything we do, deeply integrated into each pillar of our mission to aggregate, educate, and advocate. From advancing clean energy solutions to championing environmental stewardship, we are committed to building a future that is as healthy for the planet as it is for the people who call our member communities home.



Serving more than

250+

Ohio Communities in **20** Counties

2025 STATS

(as of December 31, 2025)

933,626
ELECTRIC AND NATURAL GAS ACCOUNTS

36
EMPLOYEES

1,478,415
RECS RETIRED

$22,568,649
REVENUES*

$16,668,592
EXPENSES*

220
ELECTRIC AGGREGATION MEMBER COMMUNITIES

206
NATURAL GAS AGGREGATION MEMBER COMMUNITIES

$4,500,000+
IN EFFICIENCY GRANTS AWARDED TO COMMUNITIES

$20,894,646
EARTHERA® CONTRIBUTIONS BY NEXTERA ENERGY RESOURCES

*unaudited

NOPEC'S MISSION:

Aggregate, Educate, Advocate



AGGREGATE

Leveraging the combined purchasing power of 250 communities, including their residents and businesses, we secure competitive energy rates and flexible program options for those we serve. By harnessing this collective strength, we provide our customers with energy choices that best fit their needs while actively investing in the growth of clean and renewable energy.



EDUCATE

NOPEC makes energy education accessible for everyone—from students in the classroom to residents reviewing their energy bills to local leaders making community energy decisions. NOPEC tailors outreach and education efforts to audiences of all ages and backgrounds, helping them stay informed, engaged, and empowered to shape their energy future through energy savings, efficiency, and renewable options.



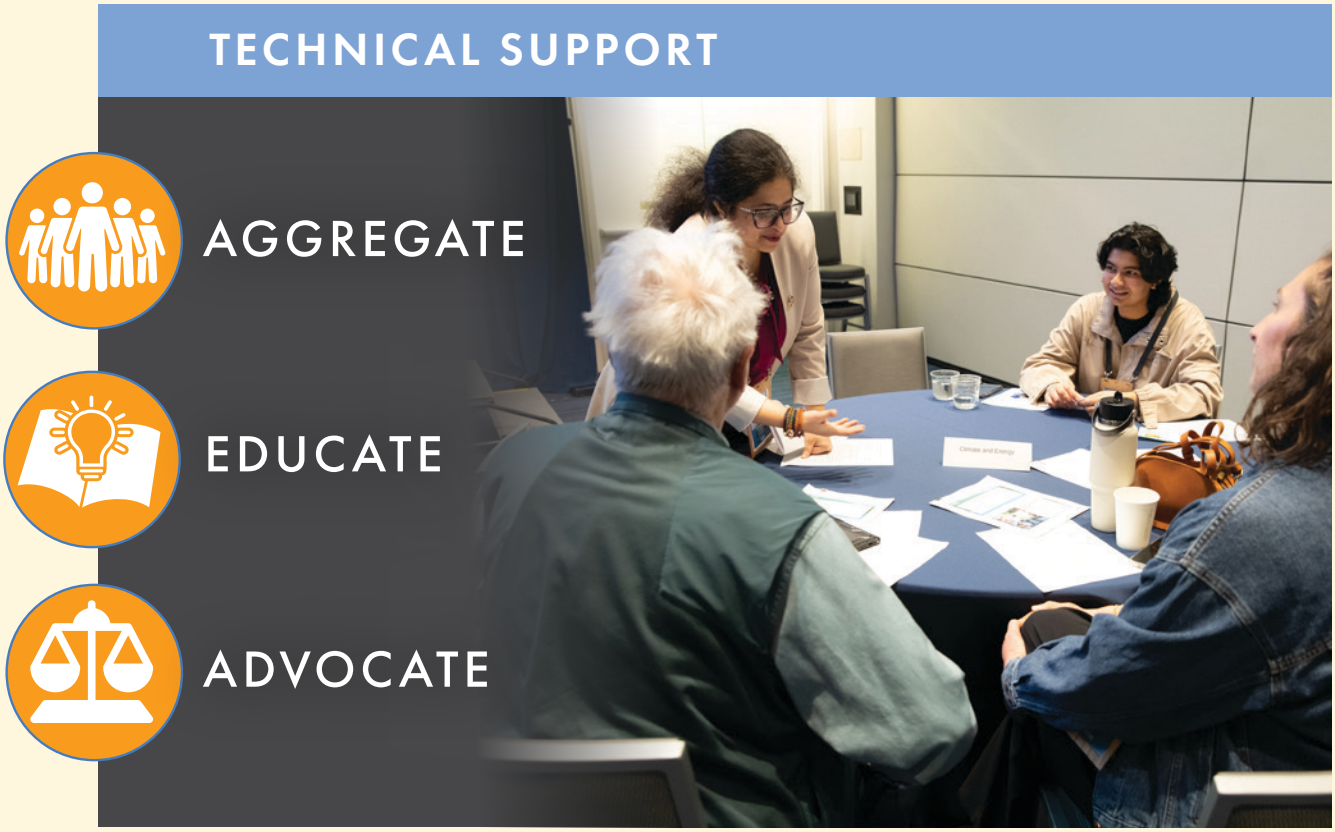
ADVOCATE

NOPEC fights for and also protects the communities we serve. From challenging unreasonable utility rate increases to advocating for legislation that protects consumer choice and renewable energy development in Ohio, we advocate for and with our communities to ensure a sustainable energy future for all.

FROM GOALS TO ACTION:

Supporting Communities with Technical Assistance

Encompassing NOPEC's focus on aggregation, education, and advocacy is a drive to support communities in transitioning to a low carbon economy through various forms of technical assistance. Many communities have clear goals related to energy, resilience, and economic development, but often lack the staff capacity or specialized expertise to move those goals forward. NOPEC's newly defined Technical Assistance pillar helps close that gap by providing funding, resources, and hands-on support that eases the burden on communities. Through initiatives such as small business energy audits, S.T.A.R. Program, and SolSmart Cohorts, NOPEC has delivered funding, resources, thought partnership, and technical assistance to communities across Ohio. By equipping communities with the right tools, knowledge, and support, NOPEC helps expand their capacity for impact, supporting future-ready Ohio communities.



NOPEC'S ENERGY SUPPLY PARTNER

NEXTera™ ENERGY SERVICES

NOPEC partners exclusively with energy providers that reflect our commitment to service, integrity, and ethical business practices. Following a rigorous 20-month national selection process that included supplier outreach, advisory support from a national energy consultant, formal bidder interviews, and additional evaluation steps, NOPEC selected NextEra Energy Services as its natural gas and electric supplier for another 9 years. Building on more than a decade of partnership, the agreement provides stable supplier rates, strong customer service through a 24/7 U.S.-based call center, and expanded support for community energy goals, including behind-the-meter solar design and installation, carbon reduction initiatives, and other cost-saving and sustainability solutions. As North America's largest electric power and energy infrastructure company and a leading generator of renewable energy from wind and solar, NextEra Energy Services shares NOPEC's commitment to delivering affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy to the communities we serve.

NEXTERA ENERGY SERVICES

- Named No. 1 in the electric and gas utilities industry on Fortune's 2025 list of the "World's Most Admired Companies"
- Reduced its CO2 emissions rate 62% since 2005 (as of 2024)
- Has invested more than $150 billion in the nation's energy infrastructure over the past decade
- Operates in 49 states with over 16,000 employees, supporting local jobs and energy infrastructure development
- Generates more American-made renewable energy than anyone else and has placed over 8.7 GW of new renewables and storage projects to the grid
- Since 2017, NextEra's partnership with NOPEC has resulted in more than $156 million in renewable energy investments through contributions to the independently managed EarthEra® Renewable Energy Trust, including $80 million invested in Ohio projects from 2021–2024.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT NEXTERA'S RESOURCES AND SERVICES:

NextEra Energy 2024 Sustainability Report

NextEra Energy Sustainability Resources



Sustainability, Resilience, and Community Impact

At the heart of NOPEC's mission is an unwavering commitment to helping Ohio communities build a more sustainable, affordable, and resilient future for all. As the state's largest and longest serving governmental energy aggregator, we bring together households, community leaders, regulators, and businesses to design and implement policies and action plans that drive real, measurable energy and carbon reduction. We formulate tailored solutions that embrace the unique nature and needs of our communities while striving to create more sustainable outcomes. We believe that collective action is the most powerful tool we have, and it is this belief that shapes everything we do. NOPEC views sustainability, resiliency, economic stability, and energy security as interconnected responsibilities of public energy stewardship. Our sustainability strategy is built on three complementary pillars: protecting our planet, thriving communities, and operating with integrity.

THREE PILLARS OF SUSTAINABILITY:

Protecting Our Planet:

We provide solutions that create a positive environmental impact for the communities we serve through strategic investment in renewable energy and a commitment to enhancing energy efficiency.

Renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable programming & advocacy

Thriving Communities:

We support our community members through targeted educational outreach as well as economic and community investment.

Economic & community investment, education, consumer protection & advocacy

Operating with Integrity:

We hold ourselves to the highest standards of accountability, transparency, and most importantly, accessibility to ensure we have a positive impact on our community members.

Operational footprint, DEI, transparency & governance





FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RESILIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY

The work reflected in this report began by listening to colleagues, community leaders, residents, and partners across Ohio. Those conversations reinforced a simple principle: sustainability is most meaningful when it reflects local priorities and gives communities practical support to act. Progress must be locally relevant and built with communities, not simply delivered to them.

Over the past two years, this approach has helped establish a clear north star for NOPEC, instead of a commitment to reaching 50% renewable energy content in our default electricity offering by 2030 and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. I'm happy to report all of our communities now receive Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) for 25% of the electricity used through our default offering. NOPEC has also strengthened our role as a source of practical thought leadership, translating emerging energy and climate issues into accessible guidance that communities can use.

At the center of this work, NOPEC serves as a thought partner working alongside local leaders to understand their challenges, explore options, and identify pathways suited to local needs. Technical support turns that partnership into action through four interconnected areas: capacity building, energy planning and assessment, implementation support, and community transformation. Programs such as S.T.A.R., SolSmart, Charging Smart, Green Community Choice, and energy audits show how communities can move from readiness and analysis to implementation and long-term change.

This report captures the foundation established to-date, and the work still ahead. The next phase will deepen these areas of technical support while continuing to encourage practical innovation, shared learning, and solutions that can be adapted across communities.

The work will continue through collaboration among NOPEC's staff, Board, member communities, and partners. Together, we hope to strengthen local capacity and advance a more sustainable, affordable, and resilient future for the communities NOPEC serves.

Deepa Vedavyas

Deepa Vedavyas
Director of Resiliency and Sustainability

NOPEC'S

Sustainability Journey

NOPEC's sustainability journey began well before the milestones shown here. Renewable energy options, energy efficiency initiatives, and conversations with community leaders about sustainability were already part of its work. Over time, NOPEC built on those efforts, bringing them together through a more intentional strategy and expanding the ways it helps communities turn their priorities into action.

2022

Mar	NOPEC established its environmental, social, and governance priorities and framework
Aug	NOPEC released first ESG report

2023

Dec	NOPEC's incoming Director of Resiliency and Sustainability represented the organization at COP28, as part of US delegation at the blue zone
	NOPEC retired 287,000 RECs for a total of 9.9 million RECs retired since 2017
	NextEra Energy Resources contributed over $27million to the EarthEra Trust for Renewable Energy Development

2024

Jan	NOPEC hired a Director of Resiliency and Sustainability
May	NOPEC was the host sponsor at national Climate Leadership Conference (CLC)
June	NOPEC was represented at the ICLEI World Congress
July	Set net zero by 2050 target, 50% RE by 2030 in our default offerings
Oct	NOPEC released second ESG report

2025

June	Director of Resiliency and Sustainability awarded Green Umbrella's Midwest Regional Sustainability Leadership Award
July	Launched Ohio's largest SolSmart Cohort, 20 participating communities
Aug	Ennovate Advisors Division launched to support businesses throughout Ohio
	NOPEC used its PACE program to help build affordable housing, Neighborhood Next
	In 2025, NOPEC infused 25% RECs in our default offering across footprint

2026

April	Expanded sustainability capacity with addition of Sustainability Coordinator
July	Launched Charging Smart cohort for 14 Ohio communities
Dec	Publish Resiliency Handbook

2050

NOPEC aims to have net zero emissions by the end of 2050

ALIGNING LOCAL PROGRAMS WITH

Meaningful Outcomes

At NOPEC, we recognize that our impact extends far beyond energy. In embracing our broader responsibility, we have continued to align our work with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) as a framework for driving meaningful change. The SDGs provide a shared framework for connecting this local work to broader outcomes. This report highlights NOPEC's direct contributions to: Quality Education (SDG 4); Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7); Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8); Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (SDG 9); Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11); Climate Action (SDG 13); and Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17). As we strengthen and expand our impact in these areas, NOPEC remains committed to integrating environmental sustainability, community resilience, and equity into everything we do.



QUALITY EDUCATION

From helping residents and small businesses navigate their energy choices and reduce consumption, to inspiring the decision-makers of tomorrow, we are dedicated to making energy education accessible, meaningful, and impactful at every level of the community.

RELATED NOPEC INITIATIVES:

- Great Lakes Science Center student outreach
- Community and classroom STEM education programs
- Benefits of Deregulation and Energy Choice White Papers
- The Power to Choose: From Monopoly to Collective 'Power' Research
- Public energy education meetings and community presentations
- Informational packets, resources, and brochures



AFFORDABLE & CLEAN ENERGY

From statewide advocacy to hands-on community support, NOPEC works to make affordable, reliable, and cleaner energy more accessible across Ohio.

RELATED NOPEC INITIATIVES:

- Green Community Choice Program
- 50% renewable energy content in default electricity program by 2030
- S.T.A.R. municipal energy and decarbonization planning
- SolSmart and Charging Smart cohorts
- Advocacy supporting renewable energy development in Ohio





DECENT WORK & ECONOMIC GROWTH

NOPEC supports local economic vitality by helping businesses, nonprofits, and communities reduce energy costs, access affordable financing, and invest in projects that create lasting community value.

RELATED NOPEC INITIATIVES:

- Community grants supporting local infrastructure and environmental projects
- Small Business Energy Audit Program
- Ennovate Advisors
- NOPEC Foundation

INDUSTRY, INNOVATION & RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE

From financing energy efficiency upgrades and modern public infrastructure to creating platforms for community-led solutions, NOPEC helps communities and businesses turn promising ideas into practical sustainability investments. These efforts reduce upfront cost barriers and support infrastructure improvements that are more efficient, adaptable, innovative, and prepared for long-term needs.

RELATED NOPEC INITIATIVES:

- Energy-efficiency financing programs
- Community grants for resilient infrastructure
- Resiliency Handbook: Municipal climate planning resources (soon to be released)
- Cleveland Leadership Center's Accelerate Climate & Energy Innovation category sponsorship

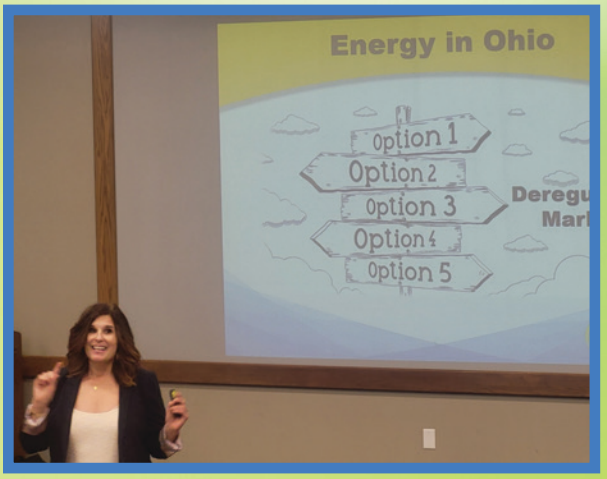
SUSTAINABLE CITIES & COMMUNITIES

NOPEC helps communities become more resilient, affordable, and prepared for the future by supporting local energy needs, infrastructure improvements, and consumer protections. Through NEC grants, renewable energy choices, stable pricing, and advocacy, NOPEC helps strengthen the systems and services that allow communities and residents to thrive.

RELATED NOPEC INITIATIVES:

- S.T.A.R. program
- NEC grants
- PACE & STEP
- Challenging utility rate increases at PUCO and FERC, and fighting for utility refunds for customers
- Protecting customers from market fluctuations through stable pricing

Since 2017, NOPEC has retired more than 13.7 million renewable energy certificates (RECs), while its partnership with NextEra has helped drive more than $156 million in renewable energy development investments.







CLIMATE ACTION

By combining technical assistance, energy assessments, planning resources, local government and regional collaboration, we support climate action that reflects each community's priorities, capacity, and readiness.

RELATED NOPEC INITIATIVES:

- Small Business Energy Audit program
- Ennovate Advisors offers green options for C&I
- 1:1 resiliency and sustainability technical assistance to communities
- Regional advisory and working groups
- NOPEC Board sustainability sub-committee



PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Lasting sustainability progress depends on collaboration. NOPEC works with local governments, regional planning organizations, nonprofits, educational institutions, professional networks, and energy-sector partners to combine knowledge, resources, and reach. These partnerships create opportunities for shared learning and help communities move from individual efforts toward coordinated regional action.

RELATED NOPEC INITIATIVES:

- Midwest Climate Collaborative Summit
- MORPC Summit on Sustainability
- Cleveland 2030 District Education Series
- U.S. Green Building Council, nationally and through USGBC Ohio
- Regional technical-assistance partnerships: IREC, ICMA, GPI, and ICLEI USA
- Ohio State University Energy Accelerator Challenge



Protecting Our Planet

As Ohio's largest governmental energy aggregator, we help communities access renewable energy and energy-efficiency solutions that lower costs and reduce environmental impact. Recognizing the energy sector's significant contribution to greenhouse gas emissions and climate change, NOPEC is committed to leading by example and supporting a cleaner, more resilient future for the communities we serve.

Our work is guided by three key commitments designed to expand cleaner energy options, reduce emissions, and support long-term community sustainability.

100% RENEWABLE ELECTRIC OPTIONS

We make renewable energy more accessible through 100% renewable content electric options and continue to expand our Green Community Choice Program for participating member communities. We are also seeing growing interest in onsite renewable energy and exploring larger-scale renewable energy projects for the future.

50% BASELOAD DEFAULT POWER SUPPORTED BY RECS BY END OF 2030

We have made significant progress toward our goal of 50% default power supported by Renewable Energy Credits (RECs). In 2025, 25% of our baseload default electric program was backed by RECs.

NET ZERO EMISSIONS BY 2050

In 2025, NOPEC issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) seeking external expertise to help develop a comprehensive plan toward net zero. This plan will outline strategies to support our communities and customers in their decarbonization efforts and transition to all-electric or renewable natural gas solutions. As technology evolves, NOPEC is focused on building a flexible, cost-effective roadmap for a cleaner, more sustainable future.

RECs retired in 2025

1,478,415

13.7million

RECs retired since 2017

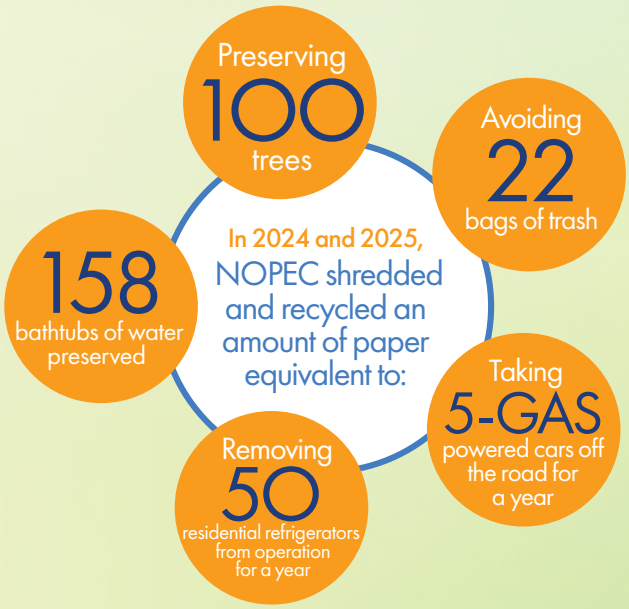
Total electricity in 2025 56,767.09 (kwh)

2024 - 2025 Paper Recycled 3.76 metric tons (8,289.38 lbs)

Total gas in 2025 389.40 (mcf)

TRACKING OUR OPERATIONAL IMPACT

As NOPEC continues to grow, we are tracking our office energy use, waste, and recycling to better understand our operational impact and strengthen everyday sustainability practices. In 2025, NOPEC was given a score of 90 by Energy Star, certifying that our office space was 90% more efficient that similar buildings in the U.S.



Connecting Communities Around Sustainability

ASHTABULA COUNTY'S SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT

In October 2025, NOPEC sponsored Ashtabula County's first-ever Sustainability Summit. Hosted at Kent State University of Ashtabula, this inaugural event brought together community leaders, businesses, residents, and sustainability experts from the region to collaborate in building a healthier and resilient county. From panel discussions to brainstorming sessions, a wide array of solutions were explored. NOPEC's Director of Economic Development & Community Investment, Jessica Renner, shared insights on balancing economic development and sustainability through the offering of community grants with green initiatives at the forefront. And NOPEC's Manager of Community Outreach and Education, Courtney Freyhauf, spoke on focusing on education with a presentation titled 'Climate in the Classroom'.

MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MORPC)

In 2025, NOPEC was a proud returning sponsor of the MORPC Summit on Sustainability. The Summit highlighted the powerful connection between the communities we serve and the environments they live in. During the event, NOPEC hosted a table to help understand the individual sustainability needs of communities and how to best support them. Staff members also attended thought-provoking breakout sessions on energy, water, air quality, and more.



MIDWEST CLIMATE COLLABORATIVE

In 2026, NOPEC was a presenting sponsor for the Midwest Climate Collaborative Summit in Cleveland, Ohio. The three-day summit, hosted at Case Western Reserve University, brought together climate leaders, researchers, educators, students, and sustainability professionals from across the region. Throughout the course of the event, knowledge was shared, partnerships were formed, and the local area was explored. NOPEC's Director of Resiliency and Sustainability, Deepa Vedavyas, participated in a panel on building transdisciplinary regional collaboration for climate, energy, environment, and health justice.







Powering Solar-Ready Communities



NOPEC IS THE ONLY REGIONAL ENTITY IN OHIO TO RECEIVE SILVER SOLSMART DESIGNATION.

NOPEC SOLSMART COHORT

In August 2025, NOPEC launched its first SolSmart Cohort, bringing together 20 Northeast Ohio communities to make solar energy more accessible and affordable. Through free technical assistance and peer learning, communities advanced best practices in solar permitting, planning, and zoning. By the end of the initiative, nine communities earned national SolSmart designation, while the remaining communities reached about 50% completion.

PARTICIPATING COMMUNITIES:

Akron
Avon Lake
Bedford Heights
Cuyahoga Falls
East Cleveland
Garfield Heights
Geneva
Lorain
Munroe Falls
NOPEC - regional
North Royalton
Oakwood Village
Olmsted Township
Orange Village Solon
South Euclid South
Russell University
Heights Village of
Richfield
Warrensville Heights

Silver Designation:
Akron, NOPEC (Regional Entity), Olmsted Township

Bronze Designation:
Avon Lake, Garfield Heights, Munroe Falls, North Royalton, Solon, South Russell





LOWERING EMISSIONS AND INCREASING SOLAR READINESS

In 2025, NOPEC piloted its Sustainable Technical Assistance Resources (S.T.A.R) program in which six member communities received funding to complete greenhouse gas inventories and solar-readiness assessments. Greenhouse gas inventories give communities a baseline of where their emissions are coming from, so leaders can plan reduction initiatives. Solar-readiness assessments show whether buildings, rooftops, and other infrastructures are prepared for solar development, so communities can be better positioned to move on renewable energy development.

2024 - 2025 S.T.A.R. PARTICIPANTS

Avon Lake, Cleveland Heights, Kent, Lakewood, South Euclid, Warren

2026 S.T.A.R. PARTICIPANTS

Maple Heights, Olmsted Township, Orange Village, Richfield Village, Solon



GREEN COMMUNITY CHOICE: EXPANDING ACCESS TO RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY

Since 2023, NOPEC's Green Community Choice Program has offered participating communities a default electric option backed by Green-e® Energy Certified Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) for 100% of the electricity used by enrolled residents and businesses. NOPEC negotiated a 53% reduction on the cost of the Green Community Choice Program product adder starting with the 2026 enrollment period to make renewable electricity even more accessible and affordable for community members. **Now, households in the Green Community Choice Program are paying only about $1.75 more per month to have 100% REC-backed electricity.**

2023 – 2026 Participating Communities:
Cleveland Heights, Lakewood, Sheffield Village, South Euclid

2026 – 2029 Participating Communities:
Cleveland Heights, Lakewood, Olmsted Township, Richmond Heights, South Euclid

2023-2026 Green Community Choice RECs Retired

	2024	2025
CLEVELAND HEIGHTS	93,378	94,626
LAKEWOOD	106,316	109,030
SHEFFIELD VILLAGE	16,955	17,772
SOUTH EUCLID	42,539	42,934
TOTAL	220,902	264,362

SUPPORTING RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS IN OHIO AND BEYOND

As part of our commitment to advancing renewable energy, our supplier, NextEra, directs a portion of NOPEC's aggregation revenues into the EarthEra® Renewable Energy Trust. Managed by an independent third party, every dollar contributed to the trust is used for renewable energy projects throughout North America, including Ohio. From 2021 - 2024, $80 million have been invested in Ohio renewable energy projects.

Since 2017, NextEra's partnership with NOPEC has resulted in over **$156 million** in renewable development investments



Thriving Communities

Our member communities are not just who we serve – they are the reason why NOPEC exists. NOPEC's sustainability initiatives are intentionally designed to address community needs. From energy security to climate resiliency to community vitality, we show up for our communities at every level with an aim to help them grow, thrive, and build lasting resilience. From the halls of Washington D.C. to the small towns of Ohio, we are leveraging the collective strength of our communities to advocate for the energy policies and protections that our residents and businesses deserve.



CONNECTING WITH RESIDENTS ABOUT THEIR ENERGY CHOICES

During anniversary enrollment periods, NOPEC proactively hosts in-person information meetings for residents and small businesses after customers receive enrollment letters by mail. These meetings give attendees a chance to ask questions and learn more about NOPEC's energy aggregation program. NOPEC held more than 20 natural gas anniversary meetings in 2025 and more than 30 electric enrollment meetings in 2026.

PROTECTING RESIDENTS FROM UNWANTED DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITORS

Through the Do Not Knock Program, NOPEC empowers residents to take control of their privacy at home by preventing unwanted door-to-door solicitors. By maintaining an opt-in registry that restricts for-profit, door-to-door solicitors from approaching listed addresses, the program ensures that customer preferences are respected and upheld. In 2025, NOPEC has made it even easier for townships to adopt the program at no cost to the communities while also giving residents a greater peace of mind at home. **To date, over 21,000 residents in 31 member communities are enrolled in Do Not Knock.**

ENERGY EDUCATION IN OHIO SCHOOLS

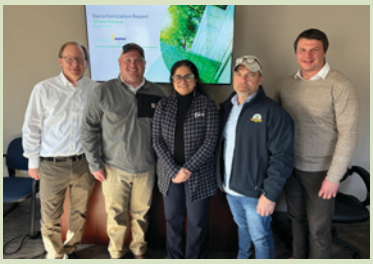
In 2025, more than 4,000 students from 46 schools participated in energy education through NOPEC's sponsorship of the Ohio Energy Project (OEP). This program provides students with the opportunity to learn about wind energy and the importance of energy efficiency through hands-on learning as they design, build, and test wind turbines. **To date, NOPEC's sponsorship has helped provide energy education to more than 24,000 Ohio students.**

SUSTAINABILITY RESOURCES IN ACTION: OLMSTED TOWNSHIP

Olmsted Township has made meaningful use of the wide range of programs NOPEC has to offer, emerging as a strong example of what is possible when a community fully embraces the resources available to them.

- **SolSmart Cohort (2025):** Streamlined solar permitting and updated zoning to make renewable energy more accessible for residents and businesses.
- **S.T.A.R. Program (Jan. 2026):** Completed a decarbonization assessment to get a clear picture of municipal energy use and emissions, while identifying opportunities for fleet transitions and solar installations.
- **Green Community Choice (June 2026):** Joined program to support renewable energy procurement for the community.
- **NEC Grants (ongoing):** Advanced local sustainability efforts through NOPEC grant funding including updated LED lighting projects throughout the community.

Together, these efforts reflect Olmsted Township's commitment to fiscal responsibility, long-term planning, and a more sustainable, resilient future for its 16,000+ residents, all supported by NOPEC's commitment to helping communities thrive by incrementally providing sustainability programming, support, and partnerships.







NOPEC SMALL BUSINESS ENERGY AUDIT PROGRAM

In 2023, NOPEC formed its Small Business Energy Audit Program with an aim to help businesses lower costs and energy use, increase efficiency, and build toward a more sustainable future. Through this program, NOPEC provides funding for specialized energy audits that assess energy efficiency opportunities, cost-savings initiatives, and individualized financial pathways for success. Over the years, **$219,724 in technical expertise and direct financial support** (through federal funding) have been provided to small businesses in NOPEC's member communities.

To date, **26 businesses** in **19 member communities** have received energy audit funding



ENNOVATE ADVISORS:

Trusted Energy Guidance for Ohio Businesses

Helping businesses save an average of **10-20%*** on electricity and **5-10%**** on natural gas costs

Every business deserves a trusted energy advisor. Created in August 2025 as a division of NOPEC, Ennovate Advisors helps mid-sized and growing Ohio businesses navigate electric and natural gas choices with transparent guidance, no pressure, and no hidden agendas. Built for companies beyond NOPEC's aggregation programs, as well as businesses across Ohio seeking energy options, Ennovate connects organizations to NOPEC's trusted resources and expertise.

In Ohio's deregulated energy market, Ennovate simplifies complex contract decisions through opportunity assessments, market research, competitive bidding, and full-service support for fixed, variable, and blended options. Qualifying organizations may also access energy audits, financing opportunities, and programs that support long-term savings and sustainability goals.



Ennovate Advisors
A DIVISION OF NOPEC

ENNOVATE.COM

*Compared to utility Price to Compare
**Compared to leading retail offers in Ohio

Supporting Students, Learning, and Innovation

REMOVING TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS TO ENERGY EDUCATION

One of the critical components of education in any facet is accessibility. In partnership with the Great Lakes Science Center, NOPEC facilitated a busing program that helped more than 1,000 students from 14 Title I schools across Ashtabula and Cuyahoga Counties visit the Science Center and experience NOPEC's renewable energy exhibit during the 2024–2025 school year. During the 2025–2026 school year, the program expanded to 15 schools and 1,052 students from Cuyahoga, Lake, Ashtabula, Lorain, and Summit Counties.







REAL-WORLD ENERGY CHALLENGES, STUDENT-LED SOLUTIONS

Hosted at Ohio State University, in Columbus, Ohio, NOPEC sponsored and launched the inaugural Sustainability Energy Accelerator Challenge. Throughout the course of the week, 28 students from across 16 programs applied their academic knowledge to real-world problems in the energy and sustainability sectors. The event was fruitful with the students deriving innovative solutions, one of which (a Facebook live event) being implemented at NOPEC.



Funding Energy Efficiency and Local Investment

Since 2010, NOPEC has been providing vital funding for energy efficiency and infrastructure projects through the NOPEC Energized Community (NEC) Grant Program with a goal to decrease energy consumption in member communities. Over the years, **NOPEC has funded over 2,100 projects** across the state including electrical upgrades, energy-efficient window installation, traffic signal upgrades, plug-in electric vehicle charging, solar, and many more.

In an effort to further support communities in their unique needs, NOPEC has increased the scope of the grants to include tree canopy restoration and vegetation. From 2018-2025, NEC-supported projects have contributed to the planting of **more than 7,000 trees** through partnerships with the Cleveland Metroparks, Western Reserve Land Conservancy (WRLC), and the Cleveland Tree Coalition (CTC).





To date, NOPEC has awarded over **$62 million** to communities through grant programs

CITY OF ELYRIA GRANT HELPS RESIDENTS UPGRADE HVAC SYSTEMS

With funding from NOPEC's Energized Community (NEC) Grant, the City of Elyria is helping residents upgrade failing heating, cooling and water heating systems with new, energy efficient units. As of May 2026, 11 households have received funding with four more obtaining money for the upgrades in the coming months.

FINANCING FOR ENERGY SAVINGS

NOPEC has two notable energy efficiency financing programs – the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) and Savings Through Efficiency Program (STEP). These programs were created to help small businesses, non-profits, and municipalities with funding sources to enable energy savings and efficiency initiatives. From PACE's off-balance sheet financing and low interest rates to STEP's low interest loans, NOPEC's programs are a critical tool in assisting communities and businesses surpass the hurdle of upfront costs in efforts to push forward energy efficiency initiatives.

To date,
33 organizations
have received
$13 million
in energy efficiency financing

ENERGY IMPROVEMENTS TO BUSINESS SAVINGS

In 2026, NOPEC closed two STEP loans to help local businesses cut energy costs. In Chardon, NOPEC financed $50,000 toward an HVAC system upgrade for Bean Counter, a CPA firm, projected to save more than $2,000 annually, while in Mentor, $40,000 went toward a roof improvement at the firm's Old Village Hall location, expected to save approximately $557 a year on HVAC costs. Both properties – owned by the same individual – also received a $2,000 award for an energy audit, with the owner noting that NOPEC's financing support and flexibility have made a measurable impact on operating performance and the bottom line.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEXT: AFFORDABLE, ENERGY EFFICIENCY HOUSING

A standout example of NOPEC's energy efficiency financing programs is taking shape in Ashtabula County. In partnership with the Ashtabula County Land Bank, NOPEC helped assemble an innovative capital stack combining Land Bank funds, NOPEC PACE Financing funds, and traditional financing to support four new homes in Conneaut—two already built and occupied and two in progress. By giving new homeowners two-thirds equity from day one, this pilot program advances both energy efficiency and affordable housing while helping buyers access homes that might otherwise be out of reach. Built with energy efficiency at the core, the project offers a promising, replicable model NOPEC hopes to expand across Ohio to support more affordable, resilient, and sustainable communities.









Creating Opportunities for Connection and Collaboration

SUPPORTING EVENTS THAT BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER

Through the Community Event Sponsorship Program, NOPEC helps member communities support local events that are open to the public. These events bring residents together and create opportunities for meaningful engagement. **In 2025, NOPEC awarded $280,000 through the program, supporting 236 local events across our member communities. Since 2018, over $2.6 million has been awarded to support local community events.**

In 2025, NOPEC's Community Outreach Team participated at

110 local events





CLEVELAND 2030 DISTRICT EDUCATION SERIES

In both 2025 and 2026, NOPEC was a presenting sponsor of the Cleveland 2030 District's Education Series. Each year, NOPEC sponsored a two-hour educational panel discussion exploring the intricacies of the solar market in an evolving landscape. In 2025, the education series as a whole received a high satisfaction score of 4.78 out of 5.0 on average indicating the events were a success.



ELEVATING COMMUNITY-LED CLIMATE AND ENERGY SOLUTIONS

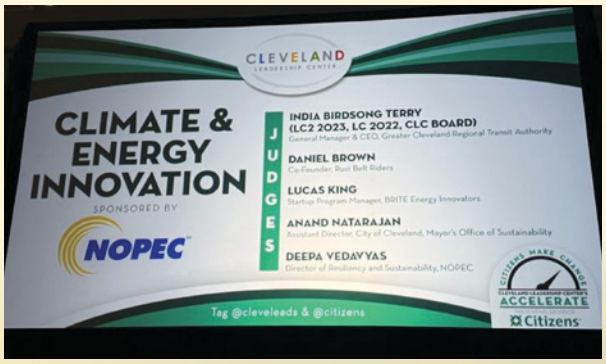
In 2025, NOPEC sponsored the creation of the Climate & Energy Innovation category at the Cleveland Leadership Center's Accelerate event. At this event, local community members were given a chance to pitch unique solutions for developing a more sustainable and resilient Northeast Ohio. The 2026 Climate & Energy Innovation category winner's idea bridged greenhouse gas emissions reduction and improved air quality outcomes demonstrating the intersection of sustainability and human health.



2025 CLIMATE AND ENERGY INNOVATION WINNER



2026 CLIMATE & ENERGY INNOVATION WINNER



OHIO ECOLOGICAL FOOD AND FARM ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

NOPEC was proud to serve as a sponsor at the 2025 Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association (OEFFA) annual conference, Ohio's largest sustainable agriculture gathering. Members from the NOPEC team had the privilege of connecting with farmers, food advocates, and community leaders from across the state. Over the three-day event, NOPEC representatives attended sessions on topics ranging from agrivoltaics and solar energy to drought mitigation and food systems, gaining valuable insights on the challenges and opportunities facing rural communities. By hosting a booth at the event, NOPEC was able to connect directly with attendees, share resources, and deepen understanding of the intersection of energy and agriculture.

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS THAT EXPAND COMMUNITY REACH

NOPEC partners with trusted regional organizations to extend energy education, outreach, and engagement beyond traditional settings and into the places where residents already gather. These partnerships help connect Ohioans of all ages with practical resources, shared experiences, and accessible opportunities to learn more about energy and sustainability. We are proud to partner with the following organizations:

GREAT LAKES Science Center Stay Curious.

CAPTAINS LAKE COUNTY

Cleveland Metroparks

CLEVELAND MONSTERS

THE CLEVELAND ORCHESTRA

Operating with Integrity

At NOPEC, earning and maintaining the trust of our member communities is of the utmost importance and critical to our success. Our leadership is unwavering in its commitment to ethical conduct, ensuring that every decision we make reflects the best interest of our member communities. NOPEC's council of governments structure provides a high level of transparency and accessibility, and our leadership holds itself to the highest ethical standards to ensure that the community trust is never taken for granted.

Stakeholder Engagement

By engaging stakeholders throughout the year, NOPEC builds trust, supports transparency, and strengthens our ability to serve communities, customers, and partners with programs that meet their evolving needs.

STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

- COMMUNITY LEADERS
- GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS
- EMPLOYEES
- REGULATORS
- SUPPLY PARTNERS/VENDORS
- COMMUNITIES (RESIDENTS & SMALL BUSINESSES)
- BOARD MEMBERS

TYPES OF ENGAGEMENT (FREQUENCIES VARY)

MEETINGS
- One-On-One
- Council/Trustee/Board
- Issue-Specific
- General Assembly
- Listening sessions
- Planning/Staff
- Team Building/ Holiday Events
- Hearings

COMMUNICATION CHANNELS
- Email/Teams
- Social Media
- Website
- Press Releases/ Newsletters
- Call Center

COMMUNITY & CUSTOMER ENGAGEMENT
- Focus Groups
- Community Leader Surveys
- Customer Surveys
- Community Events

REPORTS & UPDATES
- Annual Report
- Employee Survey
- Training & Development
- Sustainability Report





ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING: BRINGING MEMBER COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

Every year, NOPEC hosts a General Assembly (GA) meeting in which leaders from across the state come together and reflect on the year, looking back at critical successes, challenges, and areas for growth. During the 2025 GA, NOPEC concluded its year long celebration of the 25th anniversary of serving Ohio communities. The assembly also provided member communities with comprehensive updates on NOPEC's operations, governance, and strategic priorities, reaffirming NOPEC's role as a member-focused organization dedicated to delivering long term value and impact. Each member community also has the opportunity to vote on NOPEC's operating budget, bylaw changes, and board members.

In 2025, the annual meeting was followed by lunch and a panel discussion on advocacy in the energy market that featured Glenn Krassen, NOPEC's General Counsel, Maureen Willis, Ohio Consumers' Counsel and Agency Director, and Senator Brian Chavez, Ohio Senate Energy Committee Chairman.

TRANSPARENT GOVERNANCE, STRONG OVERSIGHT

NOPEC is governed by a General Assembly made up of representatives from each member community and an elected Board of Directors that provides organizational oversight through regular board meetings and committee participation. The organization maintains strong safeguards through annual ethics and fraud policy acknowledgments, promotes a culture of regulatory compliance in coordination with state regulators such as the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, and fulfills required reporting and certification responsibilities. NOPEC also maintains transparency and accountability through regular financial audits.

In 2025, NOPEC received the Auditor of the State Award for excellence in accounting and clean audit reports, the fourth such award NOPEC has received. NOPEC, Inc. and NOPEC Foundation, Inc. are audited by an independent outside public accounting firm every two years.



> “Creating a Sustainability and Resiliency Committee is an important next step in strengthening how NOPEC guides and supports sustainability across the organization. As Ohio communities continue to face evolving energy, resiliency, and infrastructure needs, this committee will help ensure NOPEC’s efforts remain practical, accessible, and aligned with the long-term interests of the communities we serve.
>
> Mayor Dr. William Koons, Village of South Russell,
> NOPEC Board Chair, Geauga County Representative

NOPEC BOARD MEMBER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEES:

- Bylaws & Governance
- Finance & Audit
- Human Resources
- Governmental Affairs
- Marketing
- Strategic Planning
- Sustainability & Resiliency (new)

SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCY COMMITTEE FORMATION

In 2026, we established a Sustainability and Resiliency Committee to serve as a guiding force in cultivating, maintaining, and expanding NOPEC’s sustainability programming. The committee is charged with overseeing the implementation of sustainability initiatives throughout the organization and its offerings to communities. Additionally, the committee will be monitoring movement on reducing the organization’s environmental footprint and tracking progress on NOPEC’s sustainability goals. As sustainability is a core component of NOPEC’s mission, this committee aims to more formally integrate the critical topic into forward-looking business strategy.



Creating a Workplace Rooted in Purpose and Integrity

A WORKPLACE WHERE EVERYONE CAN CONTRIBUTE

NOPEC's culture is grounded in clear values, supportive policies, and ongoing employee development. Our core values—Confident Leader and Thinker, Humble and Flexible, Driven Team Player, Intelligent with Sound Judgment, and Integrity—guide how we work together and serve our communities. As a representative of diverse Ohio communities, NOPEC values different perspectives, backgrounds, and experiences and is committed to fostering a workforce that reflects the people we serve and an environment where employees feel valued.





2025 employee stats
(as of December 31, 2025)

16 females

19 males

17.14% minorities



NOPEC EARNS NORTHCOAST 99 AWARD

NOPEC earned the NorthCoast 99 Award for the first time in 2025 and was honored again in 2026, recognizing the organization as one of Northeast Ohio's best workplaces for top talent. Presented by the Employers Resource Council (ERC), the award celebrates organizations that attract, retain, and support employees who drive results, strengthen competitive advantage, and help businesses innovate and grow.

NORTH COAST 99 2025 PRESENTED BY ERC

Transparency and Accountability

Transparency and strong governance are central to how NOPEC serves its member communities. Through NOPEC, NOPEC, Inc., and the NOPEC Foundation, the organization maintains clear oversight, defined responsibilities, and a shared commitment to public benefit.

Founded in 2000, NOPEC is a regional council of governments, comprised of 250+ communities across 20 counties. NOPEC is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors made up of elected and appointed officials from its member communities ensuring it is representative of the diverse communities for whom they are advocating. Funded through administrative payments from its electric and gas suppliers, NOPEC operates in the best interest of its member communities.

Formed in 2007, NOPEC, Inc. is a tax-exempt 501(c)(4), not-for-profit, Ohio corporation, with the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council serving as its sole member. Operating under a shared services agreement with NOPEC, the organization is primarily funded through NOPEC grants. Led by a Board of Directors, NOPEC, Inc. oversees many of NOPEC's financing and proprietary programs and can perform other functions for NOPEC and its customers.

Established in 2019, the NOPEC Foundation is an Ohio non-profit corporation operating as a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) private foundation with NOPEC, Inc. as its sole member. Led by an unpaid, volunteer Board of Directors and funded through contributions from NOPEC's suppliers and NOPEC, Inc., the Foundation's mission is to direct meaningful giving to benefit residents and address important issues in NOPEC member communities.



Standing Up for Ohio Energy Consumers

ADVOCATING FOR FIRSTENERGY CUSTOMER RESTITUTION AFTER HB6

In one of the most significant consumer advocacy victories in Ohio's energy history, NOPEC played an instrumental role in securing a $275 million settlement against FirstEnergy in connection with the HB6 corruption scandal. The case, spanning nearly nine years, centered on unlawful payments made by FirstEnergy that were secretly embedded in Ohio ratepayers' electric bills. These costs were part of a broader scheme involving bribery of high-ranking officials, including former Ohio Speaker of the House and the former chair of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO). Alongside the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) and other parties, NOPEC fought tirelessly to hold FirstEnergy accountable and deliver justice for Ohio consumers. **As a result of the collective effort, FirstEnergy residential electric customers received about $65 in credits on their electric bills in 2026.** Without NOPEC's persistence to advocate for Ohioans, it is likely that consumers would have not been fairly compensated for the wrongdoing of their local electric utility.

BLOCKING GAS UTILITY RATE HIKE

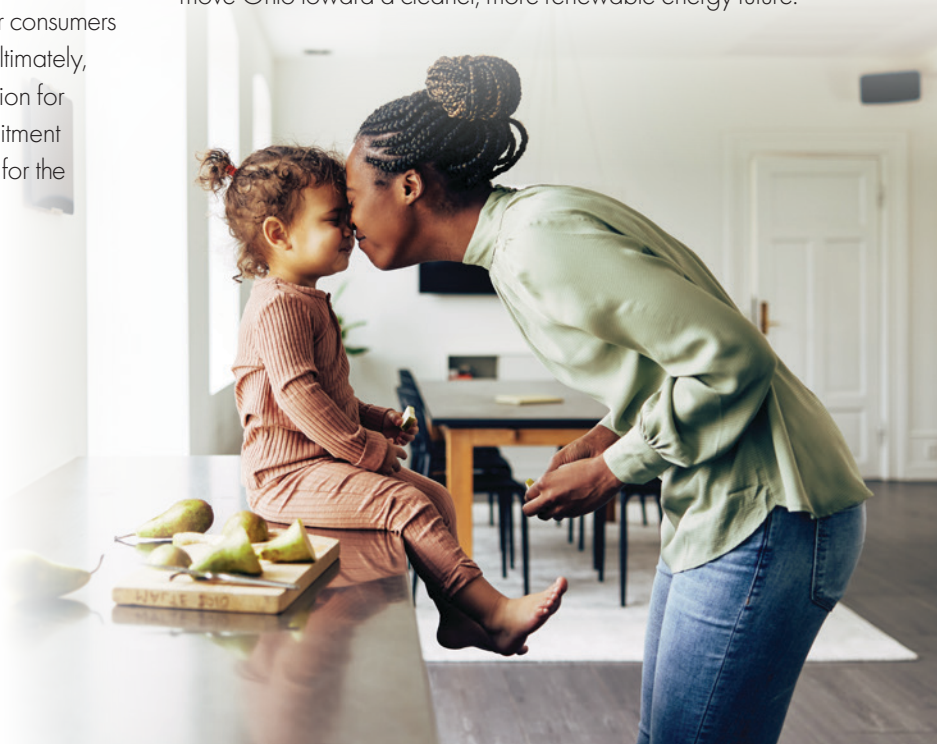
In a significant victory for Ohio consumers, the PUCO denied Enbridge East Ohio's request to increase its gas distribution rates by approximately $275 million per year. NOPEC played an active role in this outcome working alongside the OCC and PUCO to oppose the rate increase and advocate for consumers who would have been affected by the price hike. Ultimately, the effort resulted in about a $10 million rate reduction for Ohio gas consumers emphasizing NOPEC's commitment to fight for energy costs that are fair and affordable for the communities we serve.

NOPEC NATURAL GAS PRICING REMAINS STEADY FOLLOWING EXTREME COLD WEATHER

When extreme cold and heavy snowfall swept across Ohio in February 2026, NOPEC's stable natural gas pricing proved its worth. **While utility Standard Choice Offer (SCO) rates climbed more than 30% in response to the harsh weather conditions, NOPEC customers were fully shielded from price hikes.** Unlike SCO rates, which adjust with monthly market fluctuations, NOPEC's Standard Price Program (SPP) is designed to provide consistency and predictability when Ohio communities need it most. In a moment when many Ohioans faced sticker shock on their energy bills, NOPEC customers had one less thing to worry about.

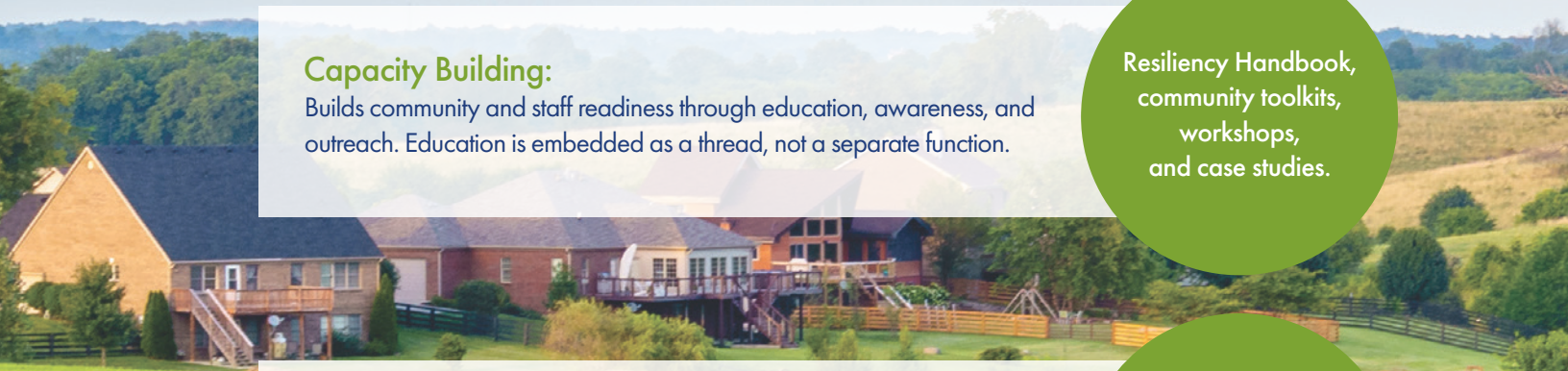
SUPPORTING RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT IN OHIO

In the 2025 Ohio legislative session, NOPEC stood firmly behind Substitute House Bill 197, a community solar bill that would have opened the door to expanded renewable energy development across the state. Working alongside the bill's sponsoring organizations, NOPEC advocated strongly for its passage as part of our broader commitment to growing Ohio's renewable energy capacity. While the bill did not pass, NOPEC remains committed to supporting community solar initiatives and continuing to push for the policies and legislation that will move Ohio toward a cleaner, more renewable energy future.



Future Initiatives

As NOPEC looks ahead, technical support will continue to serve as the connective tissue across our mission to Aggregate, Educate, and Advocate. Communities enter sustainability work with different priorities, staffing levels, resources, and degrees of readiness. NOPEC's evolving approach is designed to meet communities where they are and provide a clearer pathway from education and assessment to project implementation and long-term community transformation.



Capacity Building:

Builds community and staff readiness through education, awareness, and outreach. Education is embedded as a thread, not a separate function.

Resiliency Handbook, community toolkits, workshops, and case studies.

Energy Planning & Assessment:

Absorbs technical complexity on behalf of communities through audits, inventories, readiness assessments, and decarbonization roadmaps.

Expanded S.T.A.R. assessments, resiliency assessments, and outcome measurements.

Implementation Support:

Funding, financing, and operational tools that turn plans into delivered community projects.

Stronger project pipelines, sustainability-focused grants, and development partnerships.

Community Transformation:

The next frontier energy workforce development, climate action plan, select implementation support, and community-scale resiliency efforts.

Climate Action Plan implementation support, workforce and leadership pipelines, resilience projects, and shared data infrastructure.

NOPEC is Ohio's largest public retail energy aggregator representing nearly 1 million individual accounts spanning 250+ member communities. For over 25 years, NOPEC has harnessed the collective buying power of its community members to secure natural gas and electricity at an affordable cost for its ratepayers. In alignment with our mission, NOPEC has conducted various educational outreach endeavors in addition to awarding over $62 million to communities for various energy-related projects such as solar installations, energy efficiency upgrades, and much more. To learn more about NOPEC and all its offerings or to contact us, please visit our website.

NOPEC℠

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2025 ANNUAL REPORT

