



**Authors:** Jacolyn Thiel, Assistant City Manager

**Council Meeting Date:** September 11, 2023

**Subject/Legislative Item:** Ordinance No. 46-2023 - An ordinance approving the Plan of Operation and Governance for the Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council (SOPEC) Electric Aggregation Program, and for the purpose of jointly establishing and implementing an electric aggregation program

**Purpose:** To approve the Plan of Operation and Governance (POG) for the Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council (SOPEC) electric aggregation program, for the purpose of jointly establishing and implementing an electric aggregation program.

**Executive Summary:** This ordinance is necessary when joining SOPEC to also approve the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, PUCO, required Plan of Operation and Governance (POG) for the electric aggregation program. This plan contains information on the structure, governance, operations, management, funding, and policies of the Aggregation Program to be utilized for participating customers in the City of Upper Arlington.

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## Purpose and Impact

This Plan of Operation and Governance (attached in the packet) includes details related to operations of the collaborations between SOPEC members, the procurement of energy supply, and the expectations of members for Suppliers. This Plan includes all information necessary for the certification of SOPEC by the PUCO as a governmental aggregator under R.C. 4928.20. This includes the multi-step public process to start the Aggregation Program, participation and notification of the Opt-Out Aggregation Program, customer service, protection, and complaints, and outlining the termination of participation.

## History

Pursuant to Section 4928.20(C) of the Ohio Revised Code, the City of Upper Arlington must hold two (2) separate Public Hearings to permit comments and questions regarding the SOPEC Electric Aggregation Program Plan of Operation and Governance. Notice of these hearings was also done in the Columbus Dispatch on August 28th and September 3rd along with formal communication efforts on the city website, social media, and Insight newsletters. The Notice of Public Hearing reads:

*"Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4928.20(C) of the Ohio Revised Code, the City of Upper Arlington will hold two (2) separate Public Hearings on the Electric Aggregation Program Plan of Operation and Governance for the City of Upper Arlington on Monday, September 11, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. and on Monday, September 18, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. Both hearings will be held at Municipal Services Center, 3600 Tremont Road, Upper Arlington, Ohio 43221. The City of Upper Arlington is considering becoming a*



member of the Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council (“SOPEC”), a regional council of governments under Chapter 167 of the Ohio Revised Code. SOPEC provides energy services to member communities, political subdivisions, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, and public agencies. In preparation for taking this action, the City of Upper Arlington will be holding the two (2) Public Hearings referenced above to permit comments and questions regarding the SOPEC Electric Aggregation Program Plan of Operation and Governance. The SOPEC Electric Aggregation Program Plan of Operation and Governance describes the policies and procedures by which the government aggregation program will be carried out for electricity for eligible Upper Arlington residents and small commercial customers, including those policies and procedures related to rates and customer service. The SOPEC Electric Aggregation Program Plan of Operation and Governance addresses the following topics regarding the Electric Aggregation Program: (I) Introduction; (II) Description and Objectives of the Aggregation Program: Endorsement Program; (III) Goals of the Aggregation Program; (IV) Rates; (V) Steps for Communities during the Aggregation Program; (VI) Participation in the Aggregation Program: Endorsement Program; (VII) Notification of Opt-Out Aggregation Program Customers; (VIII) The City of Athens, Ohio Carbon Fee; (IX) Customer Service; (X) Customer Protections; (XI) Customer Complaints; (XII) Termination of Participation in the Opt-Out Aggregation Program; (XIII) Termination of Participation in the Opt-In Aggregation Program; (XIV) Organizational Structure and Organizational Structure Chart; (XV) Certification; (XVI) Aggregation Program Funding; and (XVII) Modification of the SOPEC’s Plan. Copies of the Electric Aggregation Program Plan of Operation and Governance may be obtained at the Municipal Services Center between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday, and are available on the City’s website: <https://upperarlingtonoh.gov/city-council-city-clerk/electric-aggregation/>."

## **Alternatives**

The POG must be approved by City Council to join SOPEC. City Council can choose not to join SOPEC and keep the Standard Service Offering, SSO, for AEP customers that have not already purchased electricity generation on their own.

## **Attachments**

1. SOPEC - Electric Aggregation Program Plan of Operation & Governance -2.15.2023
2. Ordinance No. 46-2023

