



## **SEA ENERGY SOLUTIONS FAQs**

**Q: What is the SEA Energy Solutions program?**

**A:** The SEA Energy Solutions program seeks to identify households within the original five Sustainable Essex Alliance (SEA) towns with a high likelihood of moving forward with significant energy efficiency actions. Those households will form the basis of success stories that will be an example to the broader community and become the basis for a subsequent, more extensive program.

**Q: How long will the program last?**

**A:** The pilot program is limited to 62 households who agree to undertake a Virtual Energy Consultation. Ultimately, SEA plans to design a full-scale residential energy efficiency and energy-planning program for participating communities.

**Q: How is the program funded?**

**A:** Funding for the SEA Energy Solutions program is provided through an aggregated electricity supply purchase made on behalf of residents of the Townships of Maplewood, Montclair, South Orange Village, and Verona and the Borough of Glen Ridge who have PSE&G as their electricity utility. Provisions of that supply contract included that Direct Energy would provide funding to SEA to administer a pilot program from which a full-scale residential energy efficiency and planning program can be designed for the participating communities.

**Q: Who is eligible to participate?**

**A:** Residents of the Townships of Maplewood, Montclair, South Orange and Verona and the Borough of Glen Ridge who are a customer of PSE&G are eligible to participate in the Essex Energy challenge. Participants will be selected on a first come first served basis.

**Q: What is the Virtual Energy Consultation (VEC)?**

**A:** A VEC is a virtual one-on-one with an energy specialist to assess if there are energy saving opportunities in your home. It starts with a questionnaire and then proceeds with a video call with a dedicated specialist. After the consultation, the energy specialist will put together an action plan with recommendations for energy saving measures and improvements. The energy specialist may also recommend an in-person energy assessment from one of the available state or utility programs.

**Q: Is there any cost to get the consultation?**

**A:** There is no cost for the consultation.

Q: How long will the consultation take?

A: The consultation should take approximately 30 minutes. Ideally it will be completed on your tablet or phone via video call. We may ask you to move around the home during the call. If this does not work for your situation we can do a phone call instead.

Q: How do I request the consultation?

A: Start by completing the intake questions on the main webpage. From there we will send you a Pre-Consultation Questionnaire. Once completed, a representative will reach out to you within a few business days for scheduling the VEC.

Q: What is the Pre-Consultation Questionnaire?

A: The Pre-Consultation Questionnaire is an online form that you fill out in order to help us better understand your home, mechanical equipment, appliances and insulation opportunity. It can be completed on a tablet, phone or PC. Please have your electric and gas bills available before beginning the questionnaire.

Q: Am I obligated to undertake any energy efficiency measures?

A: No, there is no obligation to move forward with the recommendations.

Q: What incentives are available?

A: There are different incentives available based on your income level. The energy specialist will help you identify which programs and incentives are right for you.

Q: If I am interested in taking action, what is the next step after the initial conversation?

A: The energy specialist will outline next steps so that you may proceed with actionable next steps. If you have any questions please call 339-707-5184 or email [VEC@abodeem.com](mailto:VEC@abodeem.com)

Q: Who would perform the energy upgrades on my house?

A: This would depend upon which program you qualify for. Once the consultation is completed, we will point you to a list of qualified contractors.

Q: Who should I contact with further questions?

A: If you have any questions please call 339-707-5184 or email [VEC@abodeem.com](mailto:VEC@abodeem.com)

Q: What is the Sustainable Essex Alliance?

A: The Sustainable Essex Alliance (SEA) is a coalition of local municipal green teams, environmental commissions and sustainability organizations working together to create solutions for local environments and economies. The Townships of Maplewood, Montclair, South Orange and Verona and the Borough of Glen Ridge are all represented in the SEA and the Township of Maplewood was designated as Lead Agency for SEA. On the web at [www.sustainableessex.wordpress.com](http://www.sustainableessex.wordpress.com)

Q: Who is SmartPower?

A: SmartPower is the nation's leading non-profit 501(c)3 marketing organization dedicated to promoting energy efficiency and clean, renewable energy. Founded in 2002, we research, conceptualize and manage award-winning programs across the U.S. on behalf of federal, state and local agencies, utilities, foundations and private companies. On the web at [www.smartpower.org](http://www.smartpower.org)

Q: Who is Abode Energy Management?

A: Abode Energy Management is a New England-based company experienced in providing an array of efficiency and renewable energy solutions for residents across multiple utility programs. AEM understands the challenges and nuances in implementing effective energy efficiency programs that drive utilization among residents that need it the most. On the web at [www.AbodeEM.com](http://www.AbodeEM.com)

Q: What is Wee Green?

A: Wee Green is a digital platform that allows communities and organizations to conduct sustainability campaigns. It is licensed to SmartPower for use in the SEA Energy Solutions program.