



Business Report

Saving Energy and Improving Your Bottom Line

New York City's electricity prices are the second highest in the nation. Despite the City's current electrical rates, the State approved another rate increase just last month which will raise electricity bills by 4.7 percent on average within the City. And if history is any guide, we can expect another rate increase next year.

Recognizing the tremendous economic burden electricity costs place on small businesses, the **National Minority Business Council (NMBC)** has partnered with **SHARE (Safe, Healthy, Affordable, and Reliable Energy)**, a non-profit organization committed to providing New York's small businesses with clean and affordable power. Through this new partnership, NMBC and SHARE will work diligently to help small, minority and women business-owners lower their energy bills, while at the same time providing educational information to improve community and family health.

Here's how:

1) Take Advantage of Free Money from the State:

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) offers technical assistance and financial incentives for businesses to increase their energy efficiency, and thus lower their energy costs. These programs vary widely, covering energy efficiency services for existing buildings, new construction, industrial facilities and beyond. To learn more about NYSERDA, and programs your businesses may be eligible for, contact their NYC office directly at (212) 971-5342 or visit their website at www.nyserda.org.

2) Take Advantage of Free Money from the City:

Through the Department of Small Business Services, New York City offers the Energy Cost Savings Program for businesses relocating to, or within, NYC and to businesses in NYC that are investing in their property. The program can reduce electricity costs up to 45% and natural gas costs up to 35%. For more information, call (212) 513-6345 or go to: www.nyc.gov/sbs and search for Energy Cost Savings Program - the program will be the first item on the list.

3) Take Advantage of Free Money from Con Edison and KeySpan/National Grid:

Con Edison offers several programs with financial incentives, many of which are targeted towards improving the energy efficiency of businesses. Since multiple programs are available, some of which

are complex, your best first step is to contact Con Edison directly at 1-800-643-1289. Be sure to ask about their Gas Manufacturing Incentive Rate as well, which can reduce the natural gas delivery portion of your bill by 30 to 50%. If you would like to read more first, visit: www.coned.com/sales.

If you receive your natural gas bill from KeySpan/National Grid, you may be eligible for one of their energy efficiency programs. Learn more about their programs by going to www.keyspanenergy.com and following the Products & Services for Business link and continuing on to the Energy Delivery & Savings Programs.

4) Support the Continued Operation of Clean and Affordable Power:

Taking these steps will help to lower the amount of energy your business consumes, but in order to keep your electrical bill down it is just as important that the energy you purchase is affordable. Right now, the Indian Point Energy Center in Westchester County, NY provides the City with 20 to 40% of its electricity and it is consistently one of the cheapest sources of power in the region. If this facility were to be closed – as some have called for - the electrical bill for the typical small business is projected to rise from \$11,000 to \$27,500 annually by 2017, according to a report conducted by the Westchester Business Council.

For this reason, and because the facility is powered by clean, pollution-free nuclear energy, it is critical that this energy source continues to operate. To learn more about this issue and to become involved in the effort to keep the Indian Point Energy Center operating, visit www.shareny.org. Be sure to sign-up for the newsletter so you can stay informed on this important issue and take action when necessary.

SHARE looks forward to continuing our new partnership with the NMBC, and its member businesses, to ensure all steps are taken to prevent New York's electricity prices from continuing to rise unchecked.

Craig Wilson is the Executive Director of SHARE, a non-profit organization advocating for clean and affordable power. For more information about SHARE, please call (212) 897-5842 or visit www.shareny.org.

