



FAQ for Diocese of Providence Community Members

1. Q: Are we committing to one or both of the savings programs (Green Development and Early Bird Power) when we send copies of our electric and gas bills to Sean Brennan?

A: No, you are simply providing both companies (Green Development and Early Bird Power) with sufficient information to estimate your specific savings. After Sean Brennan has collected paperwork from each parish that is interested in learning more, a Green Development representative will meet with each contact person or working group to review the anticipated savings and to answer any open questions or concerns. If you are satisfied with the terms of the Green Development analysis and you want to opt-in, you will sign a Net Metering Agreement. (Sample available upon request.)

2. Q: What is the term of the proposed virtual net metering (VNM) agreement with Green Development?

A: The net metering agreement covers a period of 20 years.

3. Q: What is the estimated functioning date of the proposed VNM solar field?

A: The solar site for the Diocese—behind St. Joseph’s Cemetery in West Greenwich, RI—will be online during the first half of 2022.

4. Q: Once we enter the VNM agreement with Green Development, what if we do not like the way it works out—for example, not experiencing overall savings, finding paperwork to be too cumbersome, etc.?

A: The energy consultants who initially worked with Sean Brennan selected Green Development for the net metering portion of the savings program on the basis of an analysis of alternative solutions. That said, each parish and diocesan entity has a unique situation in terms of their energy needs and options. We want you to be entirely comfortable with the process and the savings projections for your parish or facility before you sign a 20-year agreement with us.

5. Q: Is there any way to cancel the contract?

A: Unfortunately, it is not possible for you to cancel the net metering agreement. That is because each project is backed by banks and other financial entities that base their financing on off-taker agreements that align with the 20-year term of the funding. In case you find that your parish or facility requires much less energy than initially anticipated—due to decreased use or the closing of a facility—you should know that Green Development has a history of making generous adjustments.

6. Q: If overall energy usage for the Diocese of Providence drops in a few years due to school and parish closings or other factors, will Green Development maintain the contracted discounts?

A: Please see the answer for #5 above. It is also important to understand that our calculations for each of the contracts (as many as 168 if all diocesan entities enroll) will be based on 75-80% usage. That is a built-in buffer to accommodate decreases in diocesan energy usage.

7. Q: What if Green Development cannot supply the electricity? This could be due to decreased production (clouds, rain, snow, etc.) or an interruption in supply due to an unanticipated break in the supply chain (auto accident snapping a pole, transformer issues, etc.). We would have to rapidly increase our dependence on National Grid. Would the NG electricity be provided be at the regular rate, or at a higher rate?

A: There are a few components to this question:

- (a) When you sign a net metering agreement with Green Development, you are purchasing and receiving energy credits at a discount. Your relationship with National Grid will not change, nor will your unit rate. The unit price for your energy supply will be the regular National Grid rate, or whatever rate you have negotiated via Early Bird Power or another electricity broker.
- (b) Even if a natural catastrophe destroys the entire Nooseneck/St. Joseph's Cemetery solar site, your service from National Grid will continue, uninterrupted, unless ALL power is interrupted in your local area due to storms and other acts of nature.
- (c) When we calculate energy production numbers for our sites, our calculations are based on historical and seasonal fluctuations due to precipitation, daylight hours, cloud cover, and other factors. The production estimates for our projects are based on typical conditions in RI, so allowances for rain, snow, clouds, and other uncertainties are already "built-in" to the analysis.

8. Q: Who can answer additional questions about the electricity savings program offered through Green Development?

A: Jeanne Heston can respond to your questions about electricity savings through the virtual net metering (VNM) program offered through Green Development. You can contact her by phone at (401) 250-5094, or via email at jh@green-ri.com.

9. Q: Who can answer my questions about the gas and electric savings programs offered through Early Bird Power?

A: Sean Kenney can answer all of your questions about energy utility savings through Early Bird Power. You can contact him by phone at (617) 548-3205, or via email at seantkenney@earlybirdpower.com.