



# Office of the People's Counsel for the District of Columbia

*Representing, Educating and Advocating for DC Utility Consumers*

## Sustainable Energy Utility (SEU)

DC Office of the People's Counsel, 1133 15th Street, NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC, 20005  
Phone (202) 727-3071 TTY/TTD (202) 727-2876 Fax (202) 727-1014 [www.opc-dc.gov](http://www.opc-dc.gov) Email [ccceo@opc-dc.gov](mailto:ccceo@opc-dc.gov)



# What is the Office of the People's Counsel ?



## OPC:

- Is a statutory party of right in gas, electric and telephone utility proceedings before the D.C. Public Service Commission
- Advocates for District consumers before Federal agencies
- Authorized to investigate the operation of utility companies independently of any pending proceeding
- Assists individual consumers in disputes with local utility companies
- Educates consumers and conducts community outreach regarding utility issues



# Topics for Discussion

- What is the SEU?
- What is the purpose of the SEU?
- What is the benefit to consumers?
- How is the SEU funded?
- What is the SEU Advisory Board?
- What is the role of the District Department of the Environment (DDOE)?
- What is the role of OPC?



## What is the SEU?

The Sustainable Energy Utility (SEU) is a private contractor selected through a competitive bidding process administered by DDOE under the direction of the SEU Advisory Board for a minimum contract period of five (5) years.

- (smf comment = better definition would be what the SEU will do)



# What is the purpose of the SEU?

To administer natural gas and electric energy efficiency and renewable energy programs in the District of Columbia under the brand name **Green Energy DC** in order to:

- Reduce energy consumption
- Increase renewable energy generating capacity
- Reduce growth of peak electricity demand
- Improve energy efficiency of low-income housing
- Reduce growth of energy demand of DC's largest energy users
- Increase the number of green-collar jobs



# How will consumers benefit once the SEU is established?



- Energy efficiency programs targeted for residential and commercial clubs
- Creation of sustainable green jobs for D.C. residents
- Cleaner environment



## How is the SEU funded?

SEU is primarily funded from the Sustainable Energy Trust Fund (SETF), a fund that receives revenue from District ratepayers through a monthly surcharge of:

- \$0.12 per-therm on natural gas bills
- \$.0013 per-kilowatt hour on electric bills

The SETF funds:

- the SEU
- DDOE's administration of the SEU contract
- an independent review of the performance of the SEU
- activities of the SEU Advisory Board
- existing natural gas and electric energy efficiency programs through 2011
- renewable energy incentive programs

SEU can also receive funds from the federal government and private entities.



## What is the SEU Advisory Board?

- composed of thirteen (13) board members whom have expertise in energy efficiency or renewable energy, including the People's Counsel and Chair of the Public Service Commission
- provides advice, comments and recommendations to DDOE and the D.C. Council regarding the procurement and the administration of the SEU contract
- monitors and advises DDOE on the performance of the SEU under the SEU contract
- produces an annual report on the progress of the SEU to the D.C. Council



## What has the SEU Advisory Board done?

Since August 2009, the SEU Advisory Board:

- meets twice a month
- held an industry day on Sept. 15, 2009 to solicit advice & input of private entities that may bid on the SEU contract
- created Bylaws
- approved the contracting of an expert to assist in developing performance benchmarks & creating a District energy profile
- drafted a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the SEU



# What is the role of DDOE?

DDOE is responsible for the solicitation and monitoring of the SEU contract through:

- drafting and revising the RFP
- staffing of the SEU Advisory Board
- reviewing bids for the SEU contract
- accepting bids for the SEU contract
- administering the transition from one SEU to another
- commissioning an annual independent review of the performance and expenses of the SEU for the SEU Advisory Board & D.C. Council



# What is OPC's role on the Advisory Board?



- OPC is an active participant advocating the interests of D.C. ratepayers.
- Specifically advocating on matters pertaining to the operation of a utility while considering the public safety, economy of D.C., conservation of natural resources, and the preservation of environmental quality (Sec. 402e).



*Produced by the*

# DC Office of the People's Counsel

*Representing, Educating and Advocating for DC Utility Consumers*

For more information regarding educational materials  
available from

the Office of the People's Counsel

Call (202) 727-3071 or Visit us on the web

[www.opc-dc.gov](http://www.opc-dc.gov)

An Independent Agency of the District of Columbia Government

DC Office of the People's Counsel, 1133 15th Street, NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC, 20005

Phone (202) 727-3071 TTY/TTD (202) 727-2876 Fax (202) 727-1014 [www.opc-dc.gov](http://www.opc-dc.gov) Email [ccceo@opc-dc.gov](mailto:ccceo@opc-dc.gov)