



NEWS FROM THE ULSTER COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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HEIN ANNOUNCES \$200 THOUSAND DOLLAR PLUS, ESTIMATED ANNUAL SAVINGS, ON COUNTY ELECTRIC UTILITY BILLS

Kingston, NY (February 16, 2009) – County Executive, Mike Hein announced today that he has signed a new contract agreement with an energy consortium, the Municipal Electric and Gas Alliance (MEGA) Program, that is expected to result in over *\$200 Thousand Dollars* in annual savings on the County's electric bill.

Hein said that, "This is part of an ongoing effort to examine every area of County government to identify ways that we can streamline costs. We will leave no stone unturned in uncovering even more potential savings for the taxpayers of Ulster County. These times demand nothing less."

Ulster County is one of the largest utility customers in the region, with a total annual usage of just over 11 million kilowatt hours. Until now, the County had been purchasing its electricity from Central Hudson Gas and Electric Corporation, at a rate of 0.10858 cents per kWh. The fixed one year rate under the new contract, with the MEGA Program, is 0.0905 per kWh, a savings of approximately 16.7%.

The MEGA program is a non-profit alliance of counties and other municipal governments that is designed to achieve the most competitive prices for electricity and natural gas for its members in order to minimize the cost of energy. MEGA also supports energy cost savings in the long-term through promotion of energy conservation and development of alternative energy resources.

The MEGA program is available through Ulster County's involvement with the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) Hein said that, "We must constantly be on the lookout for best practices and other ways to effectively reduce costs and the MEGA program is a solid fit. This program has established a good track record with Counties throughout New York. It also compliments our overall goal of reducing energy usage and costs by implementing energy efficiency measures and alternative energy technologies, such as solar, wind, and geothermal."

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