



## Bloomfield officials tout energy auction plan

MAY 23, 2014 LAST UPDATED: FRIDAY, MAY 23, 2014, 5:02 PM

BY THOMAS TAUCHERT  
STAFF WRITER

BLOOMFIELD LIFE

A Commercial Utility Consultants representative said that a third-party electricity supplier can reduce bills, and participants can opt out of the plan anytime.

John Dunn, CUC's lead aggregation coordinator, addressed Bloomfield residents on Wednesday during a meeting arranged by Second Ward Councilman Nick Joanow.

The Bloomfield Township Council has the firm under consideration. The New Jersey-based company's representative has spoken to the Bloomfield public three times, with another meeting scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday at the Civic Center

Dunn said that PSE&G chooses a supplier based on a state-run auction for residents' electricity. However, CUC would hold its own auction and go with the lowest bidder. That would save residents, depending on their usage, roughly the amount of one month's bill every year, he said.

"Your municipality can now compete for you, the residents, against that PSE&G rate," Dunn said. "We'll be running the auction, if everything gets approved."

Dunn said that the switch is non-binding, meaning residents can opt out at any point via a postcard, at [njaggregation.us](http://njaggregation.us), or by calling an 800-number.

"If you don't like it, you can call and you're out," he said. "We're not going to spend a two- or three-minute spiel trying to get you back in."

However, residents can opt back in at any point without paying a penalty.

The program is only available to residents who have not already switched to a third-party supplier.

According to Dunn, participants would have a fixed rate, for an undetermined amount of time, arranged by CUC and the Bloomfield Township Council.

"Everything about this program is on the up-and-up, and has been approved before it even gets to you people," Dunn said, adding that the township makes no profit. "The town cannot receive any money from CUC. This is strictly a program for you, the ratepayers."

CUC is paid through the supplier, not through the town, he added.

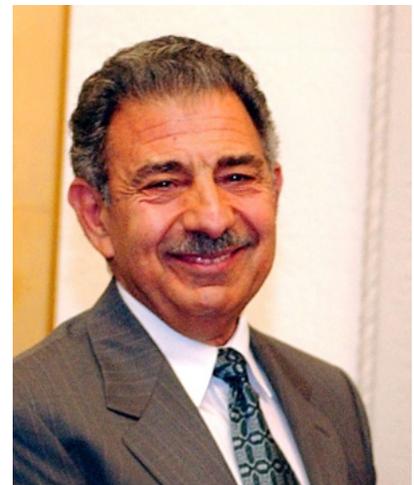
Bloomfield Mayor Michael Venezia called CUC "one of the more reputable firms in the state," and said the township proposal will have a second reading at the June 2 council meeting.

"They're doing some of the legwork for us, and that's one of the reasons we want to go with them," Venezia said. "It'll be up to me, Nick and the rest of the council to get out there and educate the public."

In addition to Thursday's meeting with Venezia and First Ward Councilman Elias Chalet, council members are available to answer questions, Joanow said.

"If you have a question, please do ask it. That's why we're here," he said. "But, as Mr. Dunn said, there is no downside."

Email: [tauchert@northjersey.com](mailto:tauchert@northjersey.com)



Bloomfield Councilman Nick Joanow touts "no downside" to energy auction proposal.