OUR ENERGY ADVOCACY IS PAYING OFF FOR YOU.

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Despite the ongoing challenges posed by the lingering impact of the pandemic, NOPEC reached a number of exciting, historic milestones and accomplished momentous achievements in 2021.

We added four new electric communities and two new gas communities in 2021, including the City of Parma in Cuyahoga County for electric and the City of Rittman, our first community in Wayne County, for gas. The addition of those new communities — in combination with optimizing the enrollment of all eligible residents and small businesses in our existing footprint — took us over the 1 million accounts mark for combined gas and electric programs in September, 2021! That means our aggregation is now serving more than 2.25 million Ohioans and nearly 70,000 small businesses in 242 communities covering 19 counties — and growing!

Our PACE and STEP lending programs continued to evolve as well. Due to the success of NOPEC PACE lending, the Board increased the maximum amount of NOPEC funding available in the PACE funding pool from \$2 million to \$5 million. And, in late October, NOPEC sold our first PACE bond for roughly \$3.6 million to replenish the pool! These PACE loans are a tremendous member benefit that can be effectively used as an economic development tool in your communities.

We continued to administer our NOPEC Energized Community Grant (NEC) program with funding from NOPEC Inc. as well as our Community Event Sponsorship programs in 2021, awarding another \$4.8 million to our communities. We exponentially expanded our STEM education initiative with the Ohio Energy Project to involve more than 1,500 students this year. In November, we executed our required natural gas anniversary opt-out mailing to over 510,000

ADVOCACY
FOR A BRIGHTER
ENERGY FUTURE.



existing and prospective customers with record enrollment results. And we launched the NOPEC Green Ribbon Award which recognizes member communities for their investment in energy efficiency initiatives.

One of the 2021 highlights I'm most proud of is our joint effort with the Ohio Consumers' Counsel to negotiate a record \$306 million refund to 2.1 million FirstEnergy customers under the significantly excessive profits provisions of Ohio law for PUCO regulated investor owned electric utilities. Our collaborative advocacy efforts in this case means the average Ohio FE residential customer will receive a total of \$85.71 in on-bill credits over the next five years! I want to thank every NOPEC member community for your unwavering

support of NOPEC's consumer advocacy mission — to leverage our collective voice to help protect Ohio ratepayers from unreasonable utility rate increases, unfair regulation and fighting for consumerfriendly energy policies every day.

I wasn't kidding when I said it was an amazing year of impactful accomplishments for YOUR organization in 2021! More details on these and other notable successes are included in this report. We look forward to more opportunities to serve you, your residents and small businesses in 2022.

Ron McVoy, Chairman, NOPEC Board of Directors

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dave Scheffler Mayor, City of Lancaster (Central Ohio)



John Zehentbauer Trustee, Hanover Township (Columbiana County)



Mayor, Village of South Russell (Geauga County)

Dr. William Koons



G. Stuart O'Hara, Jr. Law Director, City of Norwalk (Huron County)



Hollie Bartone Administrative Director. Mentor-on-the-Lake (Lake County)



David Leshinski Mayor, Village of South Amherst (Lorain County)



Robert McCracken Representative. Goshen Township (Mahoning County)



Paul Barnett Service Director. City of Brunswick (Medina County)



Ron McVov CHAIRMAN Councilman, Village of North Kingsville (Ashtabula County)



Mickey Marozzi Engineer. Portage County (Portage County)



Andrew Smallstey Administrative Director, Village of Lexington (Richland County)



Mayor, City of Tiffin (Seneca County)



Steve Patterson Mayor, City of Athens (Southeast Ohio)



Georgine Welo VICE CHAIR Mayor. City of South Euclid (Cuyahoga County)



Mark Beckdahl Finance Director, City of Springfield (Southwest Ohio)



Joe Mazzola Director of Planning and Development, City of Alliance (Stark County)



Nick Molnar Mayor, City of Macedonia (Summit County)

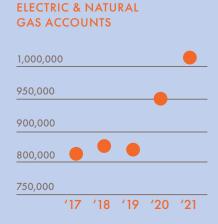


Doug Franklin Mayor, City of Warren (Trumbull County)



Every day, NOPEC works with consumer advocate organizations to preserve your utility choices and guard against unfair charges and policies. Together, we've helped Ohio consumers save hundreds of millions in energy costs. Rest assured, we will continue to fight for you.





PROGRAMS THAT IMPROVE COMMUNITIES

At NOPEC, we offer the protection and benefits of governmental opt-out energy aggregation to roughly 2.25 million people and nearly 70,000 small businesses across 242 communities. But our commitment to our members doesn't stop there. We also offer a variety of programs that enhance these communities and improve lives.

WE'RE GIVING
ENERGY
CONSUMERS
A VOICE.



NOPEC MEMBER COMMUNITIES

New Gas Communities

Lorain County

- Pittsfield Township Wayne County - City of Rittman

New Electric Communities

Columbiana County - Hanoverton Village

Cuyahoga County - City of Parma

Lorain County - Pittsfield Township

Mahoning County - Smith Township

Natural Gas and **Electric Communities**

Ashtabula County

Ashtabula Ashtabula Township Conneaut Geneva Geneva-on-the-Lake Geneva Township Harpersfield Township Jefferson Township Jefferson Village Kingsville Township North Kingsville Village Plymouth Township Saybrook Township

Columbiana County

Fairfield Township Hanover Township Hanoverton Village Perry Township

Cuyahoga County

Beachwood Bedford Bedford Heights Bentleyville Berea Bratenahl Brecksville Broadview Heights Brook Park Brooklyn Brooklyn Heights Village Chagrin Falls Cleveland Cleveland Heights Cuyahoga Heights East Cleveland Fairview Park Garfield Heights Gates Mills Glenwillow Highland Heights Highland Hills Village Hunting Valley Independence Lakewood Linndale Village Lyndhurst Maple Heights Mayfield Heights Mayfield Village Middleburg Heights Moreland Hills Newburgh Heights North Olmsted North Randall North Royalton Oakwood Village Olmsted Falls Olmsted Township Orange Village Parma

Parma Heiahts Pepper Pike

Rocky River Seven Hills Solon South Euclid

Strongsville University Heights Valley View

Walton Hills Village Warrensville Heights Woodmere Village

Geauga County

Auburn Township Bainbridge Township Burton Township Burton Village Chardon Chardon Township Chester Township Claridon Township Hambden Township

Huntsburg Township Middlefield Village Montville Township Munson Township Newbury Township Russell Township South Russell Village

Huron County Norwalk

Lake County

Concord Township **Fastlake** Fairport Harbor Grand River Kirtland Kirtland Hills Village Lakeline Village Leroy Township Madison Township Madison Village Mentor Mentor-on-the-lake Painesville Township Perry Township Perry Village Timberlake Waite Hill Wickliffe

Lorain County Amherst Township

Willoughby Hills

Willoughby

Willowick

Avon

Avon Lake Carlisle Township Columbia Township Eaton Township Elyria Elyria Township Grafton Township lorain New Russia Township North Ridgeville Pittsfield Township Sheffield Lake Sheffield Township Sheffield Village South Amherst Vermilion

Mahoning County

Beaver Township Berlin Township Ellsworth Township Goshen Township Green Township Jackson Township Milton Township Sebrina Village Smith Township Springfield Township

Medina County

Brunswick Chippewa Lake Gloria Glens

Portage County

Atwater Township Brimfield Township Charlestown Township Deerfield Township Edinburg Township Franklin Township Freedom Township Garrettsville Hiram Township Hiram Village Kent Mantua Township Nelson Township Palmyra Township Paris Township Randolph Township Ravenna Township Rootstown Township Shalersville Township Suffield Township Sugar Bush Knolls Windham Township

Richland County Lexington Village

Seneca County Fostoria Tiffin

Stark County Alliance

Summit County

Clinton Village Lakemore Village Macedonia

Northfield Village Reminderville Richfield Village Sagamore Hills Township

Trumbull County

Liberty Township Warren

Natural Gas Communities

Columbiana County

Butler Township Knox Township Leetonia Village Middleton Township Unity Township West Township

Cuyahoga County

Bay Village Richmond Heights

Geauga County Troy Township

Lake County North Perry Village

Lorain County Penfield Township

Summit County

Bath Township Boston Heights Boston Township Copley Township Coventry Township Cuvahoaa Falls Green New Franklin Northfield Center Township Norton Richfield Township Springfield Township Twinsburg Township

Trumbull County Newton Falls

Southeast Ohio

Southeast Ohio Public Energy Council (SOPEC)

Wayne County Rittman

Electric Communities

Ashtabula County Andover Township

Austinburg Township Cherry Valley Township Colebrook Township Denmark Township Dorset Township Hartsgrove Township Lenox Township Monroe Township Morgan Township New Lyme Township Orwell Township Orwell Village Pierpont Township Richmond Township Roaming Shores Village Rock Creek Rome Township Sheffield Township

Clark County Springfield

Trumbull Township

Wayne Township

Windsor Township

Williamsfield Township

Cuyahoga County Shaker Heights

Fairfield County

Lancaster

Geauga County

Middlefield Township Parkman Township Thompson Township

Lorain County LaGrange Township

Mahoning County Coitsville Township

Summit County Peninsula Village Twinsburg

Trumbull County McDonald Village

ADVOCATING FOR CONSUMER-FRIENDLY POLICIES EVERY DAY.

Each and every day, NOPEC actively advocates for you, our members. Our goals are clear:

- Support policies that are fair to all Ohio utility consumers.
- Maintain robust and fair deregulated retail energy markets in Ohio.
- Ensure competitive, diverse and resilient generation.
- Restore impactful renewable energy standards.
- Eliminate guaranteed recovery of revenues for electric utilities regardless of weather or economic conditions.

We're proud to say that we have celebrated numerous successes with you. NOPEC was very active in consumer advocacy in 2021, achieving several significant successes benefiting our 1 million Ohio electric and natural gas aggregation customers.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO (PUCO)

FirstEnergy Ohio Utilities Refund of Significantly Excessive Earnings

Working closely with the Ohio Consumers' Counsel Office (OCC), we negotiated a settlement with the FirstEnergy Ohio utilities of 2017-2021 cases in which those utilities had earnings that exceeded the "significantly excessive earnings" test in Ohio law. The FirstEnergy Ohio utilities agreed to refund \$306 million to its Ohio customers, starting in 2022, the largest utility refund to customers in Ohio history. This settlement was largely achieved because of the successful Ohio Supreme Court

WE SPEAK OUT
FOR CONSUMERS
WHO CAN'T
SPEAK OUT FOR
THEMSELVES.



appeal by NOPEC, OCC and others in 2019 of those utilities' DMR Rider, which the Court determined was an unlawful charge because it didn't require the utilities to spend any money or provide any service to collect the rider. As a result, the utilities then were required to include revenues from that rider as part of their earnings in past years' calculations of "significantly excessive earnings". NOPEC residential customers served by the FirstEnergy Ohio utilities will receive refunds of about \$85 each over the next several years, with NOPEC small business customers receiving larger refunds. Our customers received their first installment of the refund in their January 2022 electric bills.

OHIO SUPREME COURT

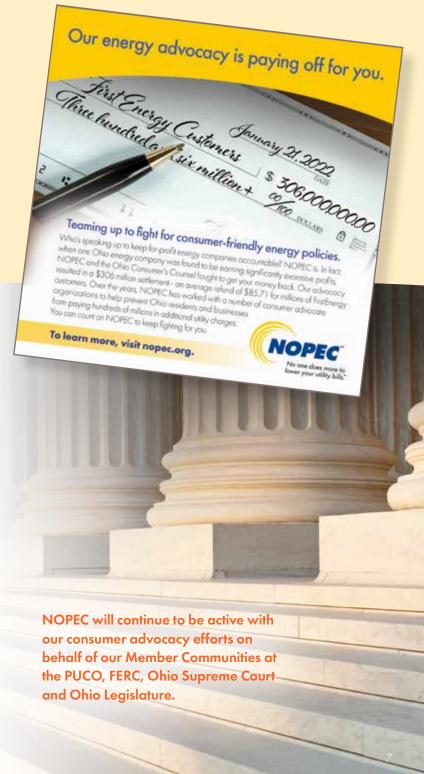
Reversal of FirstEnergy Affiliate PUCO Certification

NOPEC and OCC successfully appealed the PUCO certificate granted to a FirstEnergy affiliate to provide certain electric service in Ohio. The Ohio Supreme Court agreed with NOPEC that the certificate was granted unlawfully, and that affiliate withdrew its certificate to provide service in Ohio.

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION (FERC)

Columbia Gas Transmission Corp. Rate Case

Working with other consumer advocates, including OCC, NOPEC intervened in this interstate gas pipeline company rate increase case, on behalf of our natural gas aggregation customers served by Columbia Gas of Ohio. The case was settled at a lower than proposed rate increase amount. We were instrumental in successfully obtaining the lower settlement transmission rates to be effective in time for the 2021-2022 winter heating season, instead of the higher as filed rates that were being charged.



The NEC Grant Program continues to get stronger thanks to feedback from our communities. This year, we conducted an extensive research project, getting valuable input from 18 of our community leaders. The results helped us streamline program policies and helped us make our platform more user friendly.

In 2021 we awarded more than

\$4.5 million

totaling more than than totaling more than in community grants since 2001.



NEC GRANT PROGRAM

There are many types of projects that qualify for grant funding. Here are some of the most common:

- LED signs
- LED lighting upgrades
- Solar-powered LED stop signs
- Traffic signal upgrades
- Energy-efficient windows
- Energy-efficient air conditioners
- Electrical upgrades
- Generators
- Insulation



LAKEWOOD

The city of Lakewood used their energy-efficiency grants to install all new LED streetlights. Thanks to the NEC grants, Lakewood decreased its energy consumption by an incredible 14%, saving taxpayers thousands in energy costs.



WILLOUGHBY HILLS

NOPEC's Energized Community Grant helped Willoughby Hills install a new heating and AC system in the historic Grange building. The new HVAC system allows community groups to comfortably meet there year round.

MACEDONIA

The new lights deliver substantial energy savings and provide residents more opportunity to play, compete and have fun!





PREFERRED PRICING PROGRAM

Every year, we give our member communities the opportunity to buy natural gas and electricity for their municipal loads at cost. This year was no different. Through our Preferred Pricing Program, participating communities saved \$724,931 in 2021.

BUILDING
HAPPY
COMMUNITIES
TOGETHER.



DO NOT KNOCK PROGRAM

Nobody wants aggressive salespeople showing up at their doorstep. Which is why our Do Not Knock (DNK) Registry is so popular with residents in our member communities. DNK continues to grow with more than 16,000 households in 19 member communities signed up.

To learn more, contact outreach@nopec.org.





Alliance
Auburn Township
Brook Park
Eastlake
Glenwillow

Glenwillow
Highland Hills
Maple Heights
Mentor-on-the-Lake
Middlefield Village
New Franklin

Newburgh Heights
Northfield Center
Parma
Reminderville
Roaming Shores
Tiffin

Warren Wickliffe Willowick

CELL PHONE CHARGING STATION PROGRAM

In 2021, we closed out our charging station program strong by installing an additional 15 stations throughout NOPEC member communities.

Charging stations since 2019. Locations bolded were added in 2021.

Alliance

Ashtabula County

Athens

Bainbridge Township

Bay Village

Bedford

Bedford Heights

Brecksville

Broadview Heights

Brook Park

Brooklyn

Brooklyn Heights

Brunswick

Chardon

Chardon Township

Chester Township

Cleveland Heights

Connegut

Cuyahoga Falls

Eastlake

Geauga County

Grafton Township

Green

Highland Heights Highland Hills

Independence

Kent

Kirtland

Knox Township

Lakewood

Lorain

Lyndhurst

Macedonia

Mahoning County

Maple Heights

Mayfield Village

McDonald Village

Middleburg Heights

Montville Township Morgan Township

Newton Falls

North Ridgeville

North Royalton Northfield Village

Oakwood

Painesville Township

Paris Township

Parma Heights

Rocky River

Russell Township

Seven Hills

Shaker Heights

Sheffield Township

South Euclid

Thompson Township

Tiffin

Twinsburg Township

Warren

WE'RE ENGAGED AND ENERGIZED.

We're proud to partner with standout organizations like the Lake County Captains and the Cleveland Metroparks. It's a great chance for us to support our communities and engage with residents.

LAKE COUNTY CAPTAINS

Throughout the Lake County Captains season, we maintained a visible park presence through banners, promotional giveaways and commercials playing on the digital scoreboard with a total season attendance exceeding 130,000 people.









WILD WINTER LIGHTS

We were honored to once again sponsor Wild Winter Lights at the Cleveland Metroparks. The beautiful holiday lighting display, which included drive-through and walk-through nights, attracted more than 100,000 people.

CAPTAINS HALLOWEEN FEST

The Lake County Captains Trick or Treat Halloween Fest was a terrific success, and we were excited to be part of it. Held at Classic Park on October 16, 2021, Halloween Fest brought families from all over the area together for a fun, candy-filled afternoon.



STEM EDUCATION PROGRAMS

For the sixth consecutive year, NOPEC partnered with the Ohio Energy Project (OEP) to bring STEM education to 29 Ohio schools.

The program, developed by OEP in 2020, provided 1,500 elementary, middle and high school students from 29 schools with instruction on wind energy while giving older students a valuable mentoring experience.

To learn more, contact outreach@nopec.org.







COMMUNITY EVENT SPONSORSHIPS

Every year, NOPEC makes funds available for our member communities to use for public events. With COVID restrictions easing in 2021, our communities were happy to take us up on the offer, as many put the money to good use to hold everything from food drives to senior events to outdoor movie nights. And since its inception, we've given over \$1 million in community event sponsorships.

For help with a community event or to learn about this program, contact outreach@nopec.org.







We were proud to recognize three of our member communities with the prestigious Green Ribbon Award. This award was established to highlight renewable energy initiatives as well as projects that promoted energy sustainability and impacted the community's overall energy management.



AMHERST TOWNSHIP replaced fluorescent lights with LED lighting in the community's maintenance garage to reduce energy costs and improve personnel safety.



THE VILLAGE OF CHIPPEWA LAKE installed LED streetlights throughout their community, resulting in an approximate annual savings of 41,000 kWh of electricity.



THE CITY OF TWINSBURG upgraded 20 windows and four garage doors in their fire station with more energy-efficient replacements, substantially reducing unwanted air intrusion and improving efficiency.

WORKING TO FORWARD COMMUNITY PRIORITIES.

PACE &STEP 2021 Projects



STEP & PACE PROGRAMS

NOPEC offers low-interest STEP and PACE loans for energy improvement projects on commercial and industrial properties. These loans enable property owners to get the capital they need to make energy-efficiency upgrades.

Due to the success and the demand for NOPEC PACE loans, the Board has increased the maximum amount of NOPEC funding available from \$2 million to \$5 million. It also raised the maximum STEP loans to \$125,000 — a \$25,0000 increase.

Eligible properties include private-sector offices, retail and industrial buildings, non-profit facilities, apartment buildings and public sector (government, healthcare, education) facilities in NOPEC member communities. For more information on STEP and PACE financing, contact Jessica Renner, Loan and Grant Associate at jrenner@nopec.org.

PROJECT	PROJECT TYPE	COMMUNITY	FINANCED	IMPROVEMENTS	EST. ENERGY SAVINGS
Red Brick Development	PACE	City of Lorain	\$1,000,000	Lighting, windows, roofing, insulation, heating and cooling systems	\$33,262 annually
Shaker West Professional Building	STEP	City of Cleveland	\$125,000	Elevator update	\$62,900 annually

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

COMING TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE **MILESTONES**

After meeting virtually last year, we were once again able to bring people together on a limited basis for our General Assembly. This year's meeting — our 22nd — was a hybrid event, with only our voting members attending in person. The proceedings were also streamed live, so that others could view the meeting from the comfort of their homes and offices. This year, we certainly had some big milestones and news to share!

- In September, NOPEC surpassed 1,000,000 natural gas and electric accounts.
- Partnered with the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) to negotiate a \$306 Million refund from FirstEnergy for significantly excessive profits.
- In late October, NOPEC sold our first PACE bond for roughly \$3.6 million through the Warren County Port Authority.
- Worked to have the Ohio Supreme Court reverse and remand the PUCO's certificate granting FirstEnergy's affiliate to provide competitive retail electric service in Ohio.
- Increased the maximum loan amount in our STEP program by 25% — to \$125,000.
- Conducted an extensive Environmental Social Governance (ESG) study within our communities.
- Announced the three winners of our inaugural NOPEC Green Ribbon Award, recognizing NOPEC member



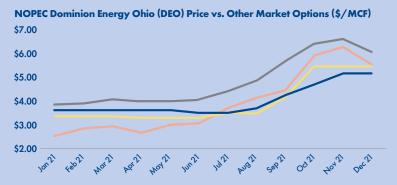


SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

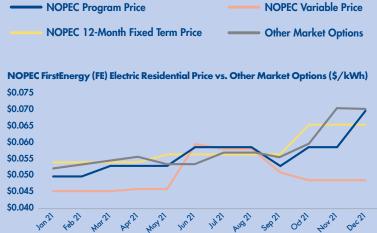
At NOPEC, we believe sustainability goals should focus on environmental protection, social strength and the welfare of our communities. We have confidence these goals can be achieved through strong governance that is fair and accountable to its citizens. As an organization, we have taken a closer look at our own sustainability efforts and initiatives, and we believe we are uniquely positioned to help NOPEC member communities wherever they are at on their journey, supporting them in accomplishing their individual community goals.

- We continue our efforts to support sustainability and renewable energy development and are excited to offer more options and resources for our member communities to do the same.
- Through funding programs such as grants and low-interest loans, we are helping member communities reduce their overall carbon footprint and lower their energy costs.
- We provide communities, residents, and small businesses the choice to support renewable energy through our 100% renewable content electricity options.
- We offer resources and tips for residents and small businesses to reduce their energy usage and save on their energy bills.

Over the next year, NOPEC looks forward to working with other leader organizations who are committed to a more sustainable future for Ohioans to develop additional energy programs for our communities.







2021 ANNUAL REPORT

NATURAL GAS CHARTS PRICE COMPARISON NOTES:

- 1. NOPEC Variable Price is \$0.02/MCF (or \$0.002/CCF) discount to the utility Standard Choice Offer (SCO).
- "Others" represents the blended price of the average 12-month term offers published by the largest Retail Gas Suppliers* on EnergyChoiceOhio.gov and the SCO (DEO 73%/27%; COH 48%/52%)
- * Includes the largest retail gas suppliers based on sales volume as reported in PUCO submitted annual reports as of YE 2020

ELECTRIC CHART PRICE COMPARISON NOTES:

- 1. NOPEC's FE Program Price is blended for the FE Residential Portfolio (CEI/OE 68%/32%)
- 2. NOPEC Variable Price (FE & AEP) is a 6% discount to the Utility's Price to Compare (PTC)
- 3. "Others" represents the blended price of the average 12-month term offers published by the largest Retail Electric Suppliers* on EnergyChoiceOhio.gov and the PTC (FE 87%/13%; AEP 48%/52%).
- * Includes the largest retail electric suppliers based on sales volume as reported in PUCO submitted annual reports as of YE 2020

In 2021, NOPEC received an Auditor of the State Award for the audit of our 2019 – 2020 financial statements. This award recognizes a clean audit report without comments or issues.

FINANCIALS

REVENUE		Jan - Dec 21 (preliminary)	Jan - Dec 20 (updated)
	Management Fees - Electric	8,627,206	8,131,532
	Management Fees - Natural Gas	2,077,273	4,029,570
	Grants - Electric & Natural Gas	4,729,925	4,277,085
	Investment Income	392,746	488,964
	Program and Other Income	392,018	342,699
TOTAL REVENUES		16,219,168	17,269,850
EXPENSES			
	Commercial Programs	439,355	50,021
	Community Event Sponsorships	283,038	263,313
	Legal Expense	667,365	1,188,521
	Computer - IT Support	91,327	80,036
	Professional Fees	75,785	44,257
	Communications & Consulting	241,487	231,936
	Grant to NOPEC, Inc.	6,200,000	8,700,000
	Marketing and Support Services	1,724,113	1,731,061
	Relationship Management	56,983	62,146
	Office and Other General Expense	232,659	221,890
_	Staff Salaries	1,856,674	1,644,496
	Staff Fringe Benefits	640,011	547,164
	Meetings and Travel	38,263	37,564
	COVID-19 Related Expense	5,991	18,801
	Depreciation Expense	46,106	25,490
TOTAL EXPENSE		12,599,157	14,846,696
NET INCOME		3,620,011	2,423,154

Note: This report represents the most up-to-date information at the time of publication. Investment Income does not include any unrealized portfolio gains/(losses) at year end.

The effects of GASB 68/75 reporting (related to Pension and Other Post-Employment Benefits) have been omitted as they have no financial bearing on the fiscal operation of NOPEC.



This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

HVAC
 LIGHTING
 WINDOWS
 DOORS
 INSULATION
 ROOF
 AND
 MORE



nopec.org

The Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) is the largest non-profit retail energy aggregation in the United States. Currently, NOPEC supplies electricity and natural gas to more than 1,000,000 residential and small business customers in over 240 member communities in 19 Ohio counties. Since 2001, NOPEC has saved Ohio consumers hundreds of millions of dollars on energy costs. NOPEC has also awarded nearly \$44 million in energy efficiency grants. For more information about NOPEC, visit nopec.org.