

# 2021

# Annual Report



# SOPEC

Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council



# **2022 MID-YEAR UPDATE FOR THE SUSTAINABLE OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The elected leaders serving as representatives to the General Assembly of the Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council (SOPEC) have remained a vital component of the organization's growth and continued success. We find ourselves on the cutting-edge of the global shift to clean, renewable energy. As opportunities emerge to leverage our communities' buying power to take advantage of this fast-growing clean energy sector, we remain strong in ensuring we make responsible decisions that complement our mission.

We have prepared this report to help you and members of your community better understand the work that the SOPEC Council of Governments performs. The 2021 Annual Report is a reflection of an incredible year of organizational growth and our commitment to local, sustainable, people-first energy.

This mid-year update serves as a reminder that SOPEC is more prepared than ever to support innovative projects, programs, and ideas that can be deployed for your community. Each June is the start of a new supply year and we're excited to announce significant savings for our communities – meaning the electric aggregation program is cheaper and greener than the utilities' standard service offer and is estimated to save millions for our customers.

SOPEC has improved its capacity to serve communities directly, ensuring more consistent contact and counsel that is an asset for you as an elected leader to accomplish your community's sustainable energy goals. I look forward to many energetic conversations today and in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Luke Sulfridge  
**Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council**  
Executive Director

An aerial photograph of a solar farm. The image shows multiple rows of blue solar panels arranged in a grid pattern, separated by green grassy paths. The perspective is from a high angle, looking down at the panels. A semi-transparent white banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text 'STRATEGIC VISION' in a bold, green, sans-serif font.

# STRATEGIC VISION

The General Assembly is a time to improve the foundational programs of the Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council. Additionally, this is a time to explore new options for growth and innovation that supports the common good for both individual SOPEC communities and the Council as a whole.

Developing a strategic vision can be challenging, but this work is important to the organization, and lays the groundwork for the SOPEC Board of Directors and staff to continue with the specific planning and budgeting process throughout the year. The two previous annual General Assembly meetings highlighted the opportunity to expedite economic development goals by developing public energy programs, primarily opt-out electric aggregation, and acquiring additional public dollars from federal agencies to support next-generation energy sources including solar PV, biogas collection, and efficiency in energy use and purchasing.

The theory behind this vision is that by supporting a more diverse regional energy landscape, employers and development investors will be attracted to the new energy economy attributes enough to invest in economic stimulus projects in SOPEC communities.

**1. Steward public dollars to support next-generation energy resources**

**2. Ensure an acceptable balance between risk-taking and accountability to spur economic development**

Moreover, public energy programs are best designed when more dollars spent on electric utilities ensure funding is allocated to local public bodies, such as SOPEC. Without this mechanism, possible with opt-out electric aggregation, those dollars will only export to the investor-owned electric distribution utility and/or a competitive retail electricity suppliers and not stay in the local economy – supporting local needs.

A shared compensation structure among multiple local governments (SOPEC) opens an opportunity to create more programs that support the common good, that reduce community dependency on electric utilities and suppliers for energy services, and that engage SOPEC leaders to enact bold, innovative energy democracy strategies.

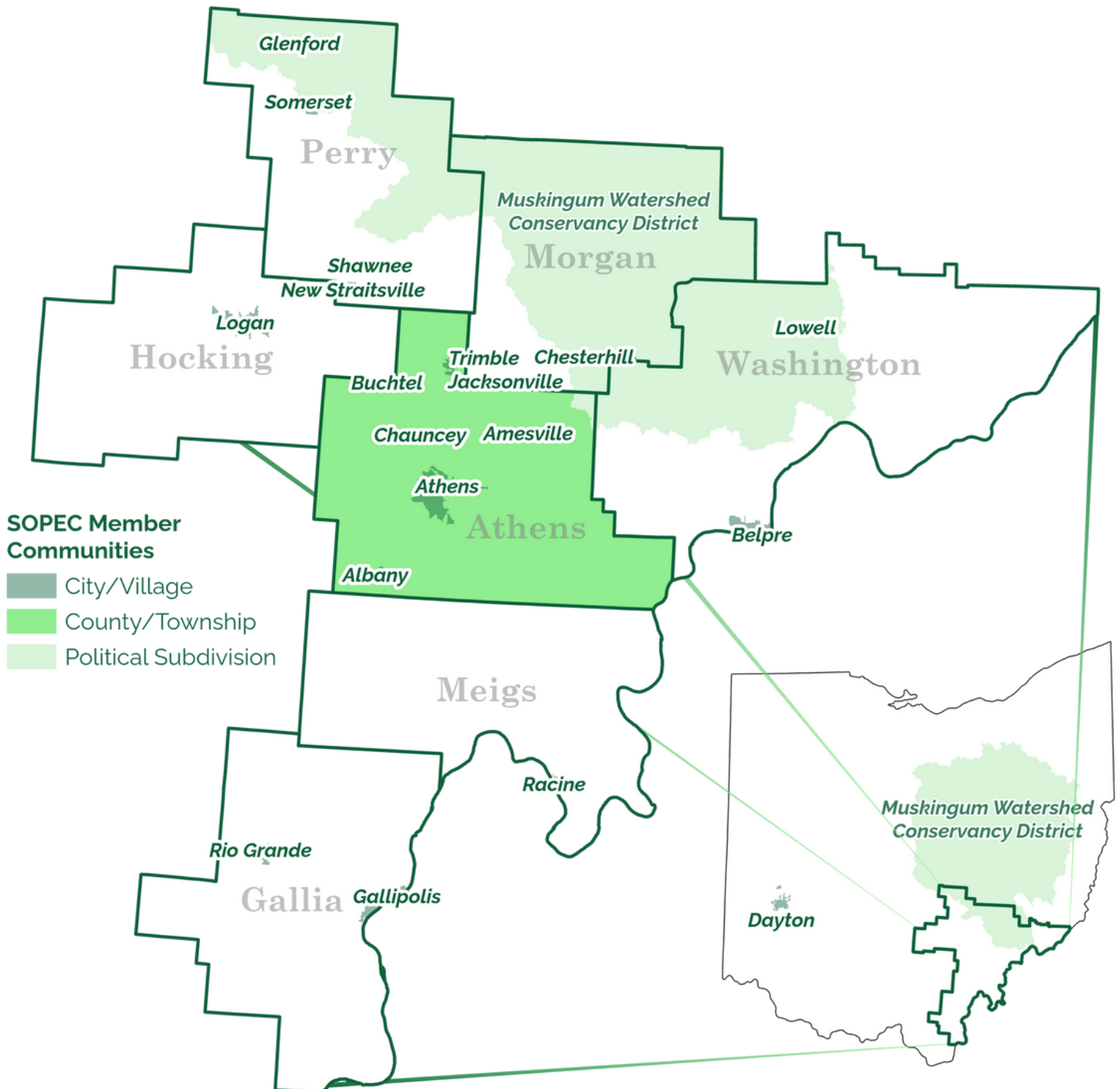
**1. Avoid dollars only exporting out of the region by changing the pricing structure for imported energy products, such as electric generation and utility services**

**2. Substitute and complement imported energy products for similar goods produced by locally-owned and -operated providers**

Community representatives are strongly encouraged to provide feedback and improve the strategic vision for our region.

# SOPEC Membership Map

SOPEC is a council of governments serving the energy needs of Albany, Amesville, Athens, Athens County (unincorporated areas), Belpre, Buchtel, Chauncey, Chesterhill, Dayton, Gallipolis, Glenford, Jacksonville, Logan, Lowell, the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, New Straitsville, Racine, Rio Grande, Shawnee, Somerset, and Trimble.



# **New Communities in 2021: The City of Dayton and the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District**

The City of Dayton joined SOPEC as a member community in May 2021. Sustainability planners with Dayton recognized that activating a dormant electric aggregation program would be one of the best measures to take in reaching the city's sustainability and renewable energy usage goals. Dayton officials selected SOPEC to manage the Dayton electric aggregation program, which launched in June 2022 with a 100% renewable energy supply.

Shortly thereafter, SOPEC officially recognized the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District as part of its membership in June 2021. New to 2021 was SOPEC's ability to expand its membership beyond traditional municipal corporations – cities, villages, townships, and counties. Now, SOPEC's membership can include other political subdivisions within the state of Ohio, including, but not limited to, conservancy, resource, park, and school districts, regional transit authorities, and other regional and/or state agencies.



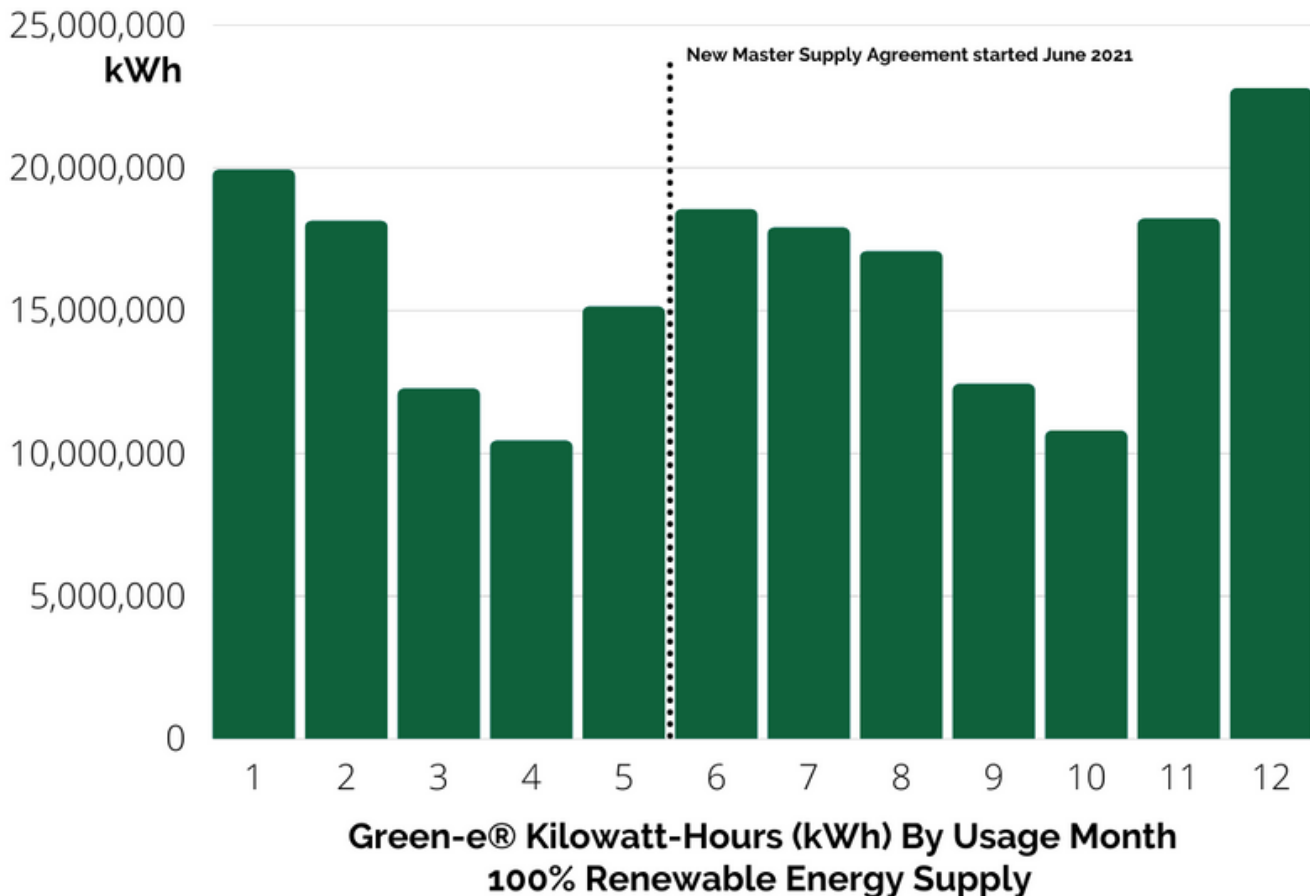
A photograph of several white wind turbines in a field. The turbines are arranged in a line, receding into the distance. The sky is a clear, bright blue with some light, wispy clouds. The foreground shows the tops of green trees and bushes. The overall scene is bright and clean, representing renewable energy.

# **ELECTRIC AGGREGATION**

*Enrollment and Electricity Consumption*

# 2021

# SOPEC Electric Aggregation 2021



*Represents kilowatt-hour (kWh) usage data from enrolled customers in Albany, Amesville, Athens, Athens County (unincorporated areas), Belpre, Buchtel, Chauncey, Chesterhill, Gallipolis, Glenford, Jacksonville, Logan, Lowell, New Straitsville, Racine, Rio Grande, Shawnee, Somerset, and Trimble.*

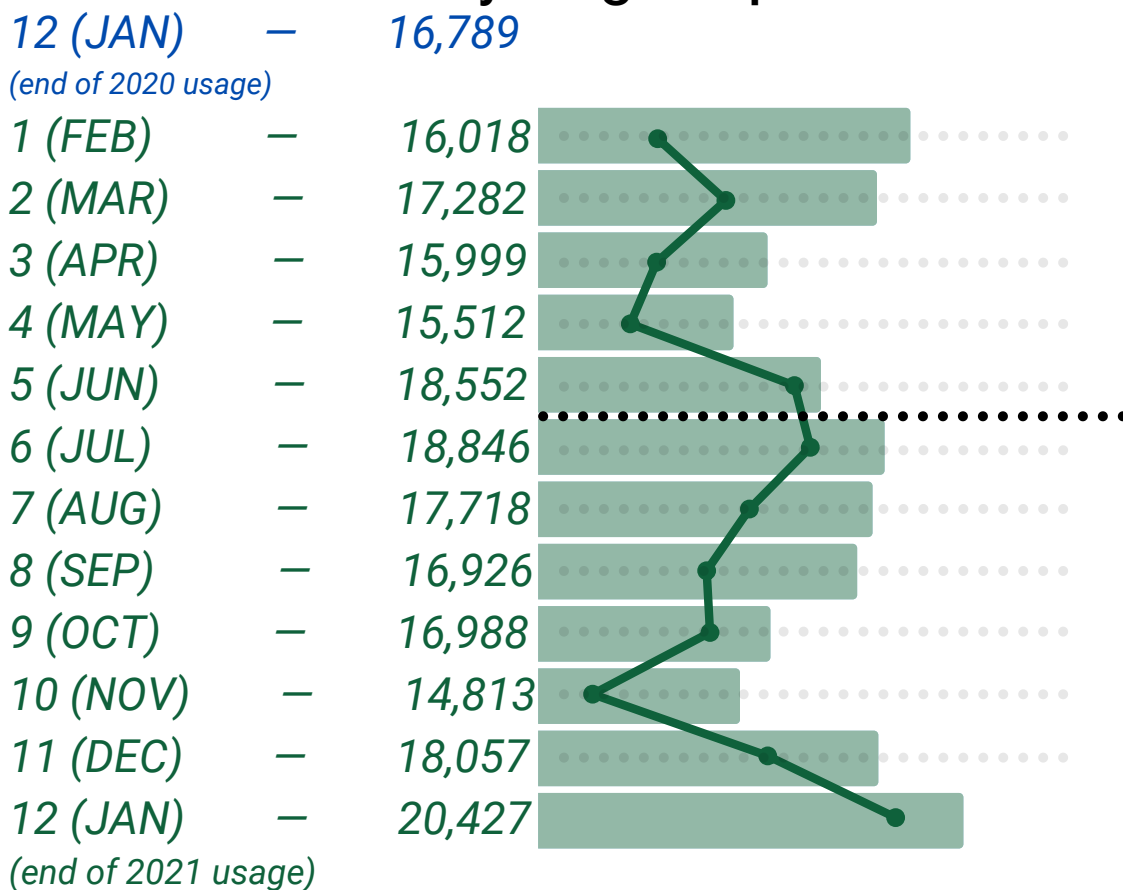
SOPEC continues to provide members with aggregated data about the amount of electricity used in their communities, measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh). Each community's electric load profile is different and the information represented here shows kWh usage per month within active communities throughout the 2021 calendar year. As always, SOPEC can provide additional services to expand your community's kWh tracking efforts, including measuring the positive environmental impact of using Green-e® electricity.



# SOPEC Electric Aggregation continued

In 2021, SOPEC electric aggregation customers used 193,513,836 kWh, an average of 16,126,153 kWh per month, with an average enrollment of 17,261 accounts per month. Of this total, 164,792,731 kWh was used from residential accounts and 28,721,105 kWh was used from small commercial accounts.

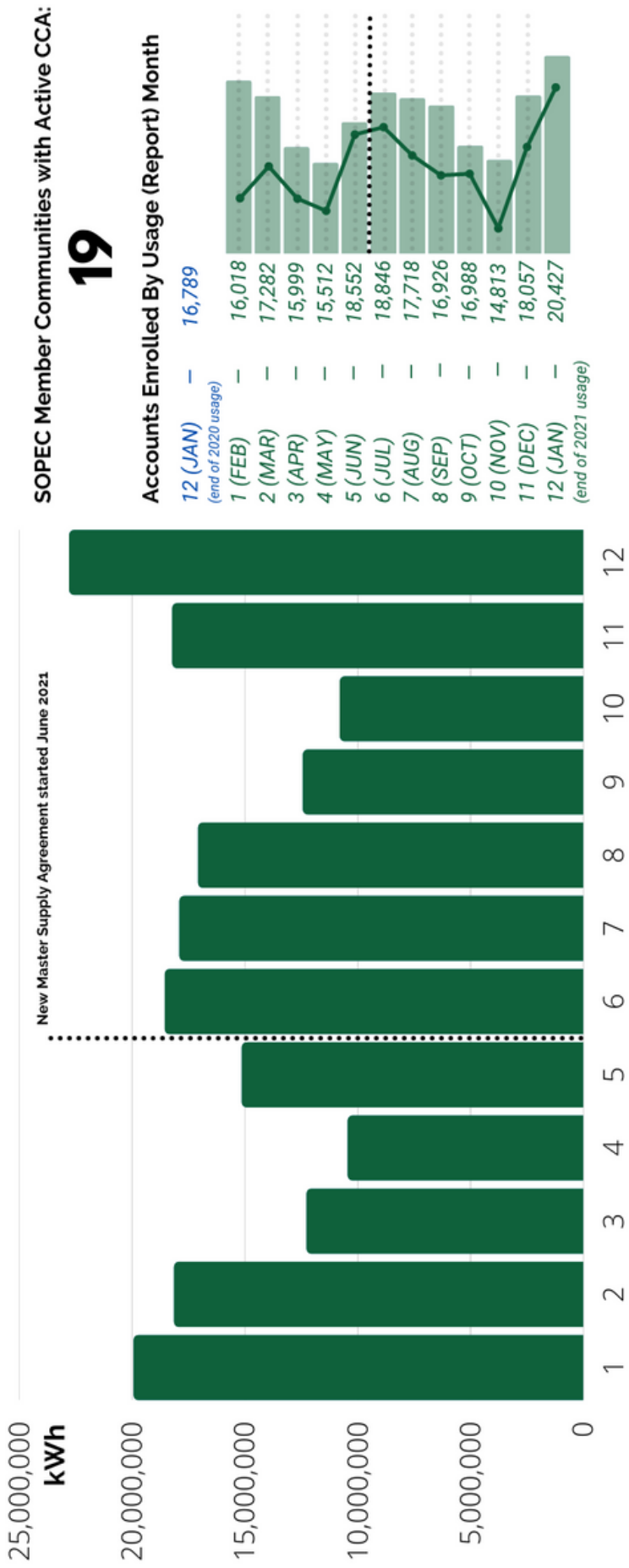
## Accounts Enrolled By Usage (Report) Month



Collectively, SOPEC communities have a dual-peak electric load shape — meaning that most electricity is used on the hottest summer days and the coldest winter days. Overall, SOPEC customers use slightly more kWh in the winter months than the summer months, but kWh usage remains consistent with the national average for similar residential and small commercial accounts. SOPEC remains committed to improving the efficiency of each customer's electricity usage and the collective electric load profile.

# 2021 — Opt-Out SOPEC Electric Aggregation Program

Enrolled residential and small commercial accounts within SOPEC member communities (Community Choice Aggregation — CCA)



Green-e® Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) By Usage Month  
100% Renewable Energy Supply

**193,513,836 kWh in 2021**

# At a Glance: 2021

## SOPEC Electric Aggregation Program

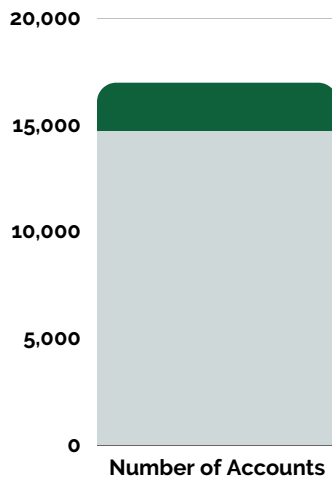


# The Year in Review:

Kilowatt-hour (kWh) Usage per Account per Month

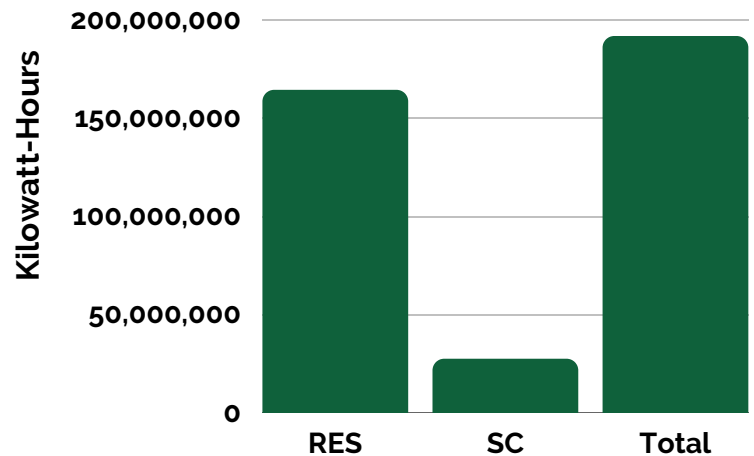


Number of Accounts per Month



Commercial Residential

Green-e® 2021 Kilowatt-Hour (kWh) Usage Residential & Small Commercial



In 2021, SOPEC was serving an average of 14,917 residential and 2,344 commercial customers per month using Green-e® certified electricity. Additionally, 96% of the total electricity used by electric aggregation (CCA) customers in 2021 was Green-e® certified renewable energy from wind power.

In 2021, SOPEC electric aggregation customers used 193,513,836 Green-e® kWh, an average of 16,126,153 kWh per month, with an average enrollment of 17,261 accounts per month. Of this total Green-e® kWh, 164,792,731 kWh was used from residential accounts (RES) and 28,721,105 kWh was used from small commercial (SC) accounts.

## By buying Green-e® certified electricity this year, SOPEC communities:

Retired renewable energy credits (RECs) to counterbalance the emissions footprint of all electricity used by SOPEC customers. Based on national electricity emissions, this is equivalent to the greenhouse gas emissions avoided by:

- 4,138 garbage trucks of waste recycled instead of landfilled\*
- 23.3 wind turbines running for a year\*
- 18,629 gasoline-powered passenger vehicles driven for one year\*

\*Estimates drawn from the EPA's Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies calculator

# PUBLIC PRICING PROGRAM

*Opt-In Electric Supply Product*

# 2021



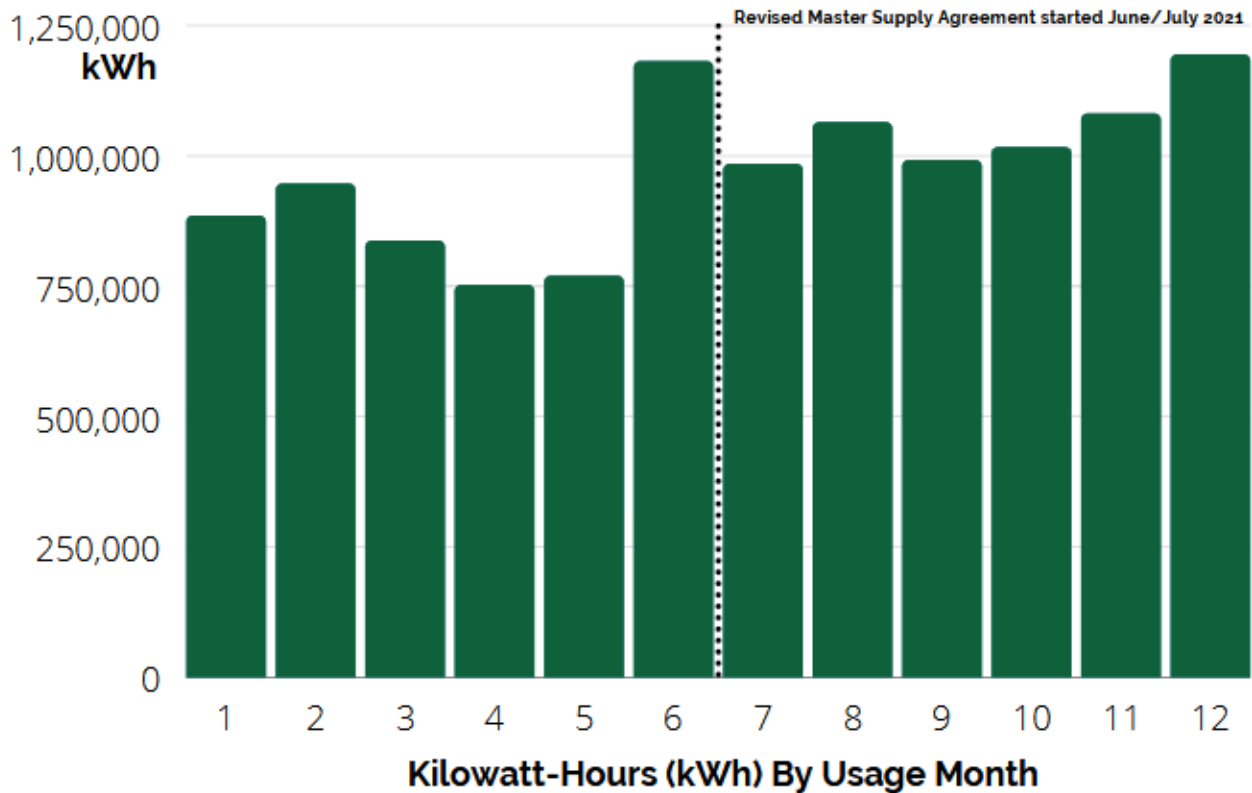
# Public Pricing Program

Opt-in electric supply rate offer for public entities

The Public Pricing Program (P3) is an opt-in electric supply rate available to municipalities, political subdivisions, non-profit organizations, houses of worship, hospitals, schools, conservancy districts, and more. Any eligible entity served by an investor-owned electric utility can enroll in the SOPEC P3.

Beyond a competitive P3 rate, SOPEC provides energy consumption analysis, energy procurement strategies, and direct legal, financial, and administrative support to help members reach their sustainable energy goals.

## 2021 Aggregate Usage (kWh)

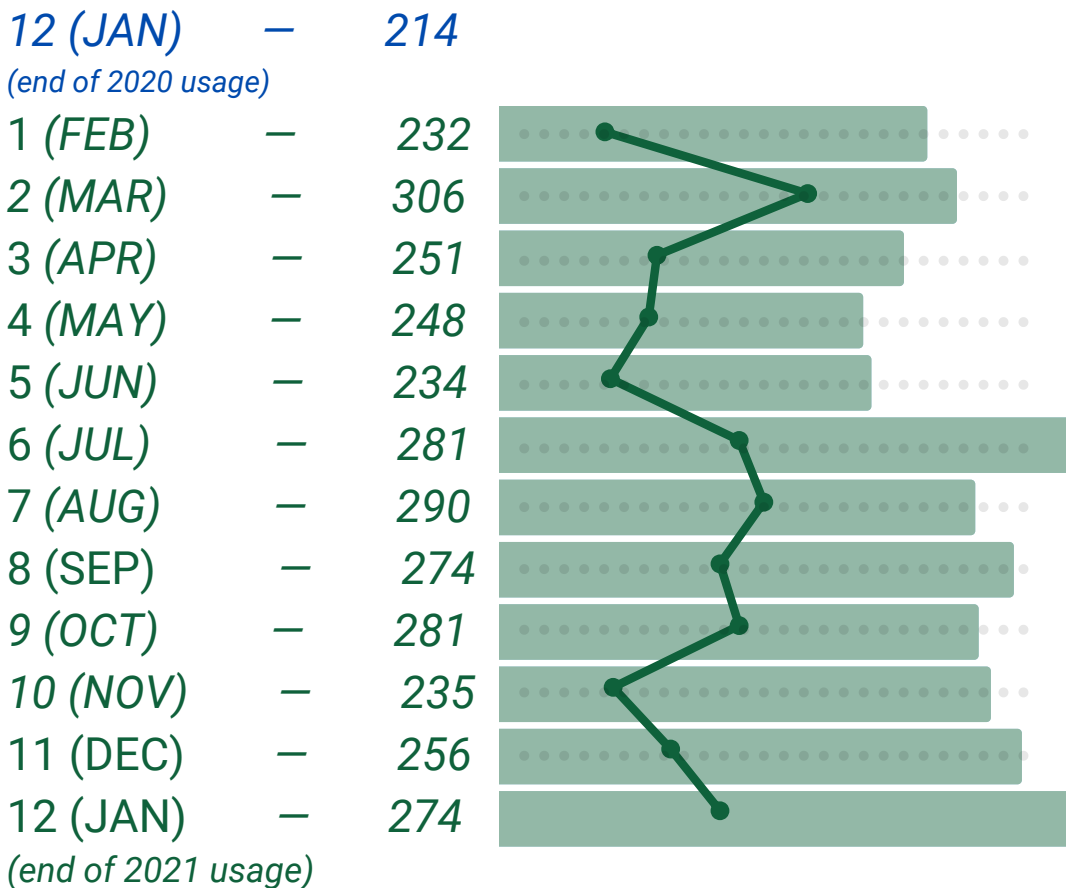


**11,702,793 kWh in 2021**

# Public Pricing Program continued

In 2021, SOPEC P3 customers used 11,702,793 kWh, an average of 975,233 kWh per month, with an average of 264 paid invoices per month.

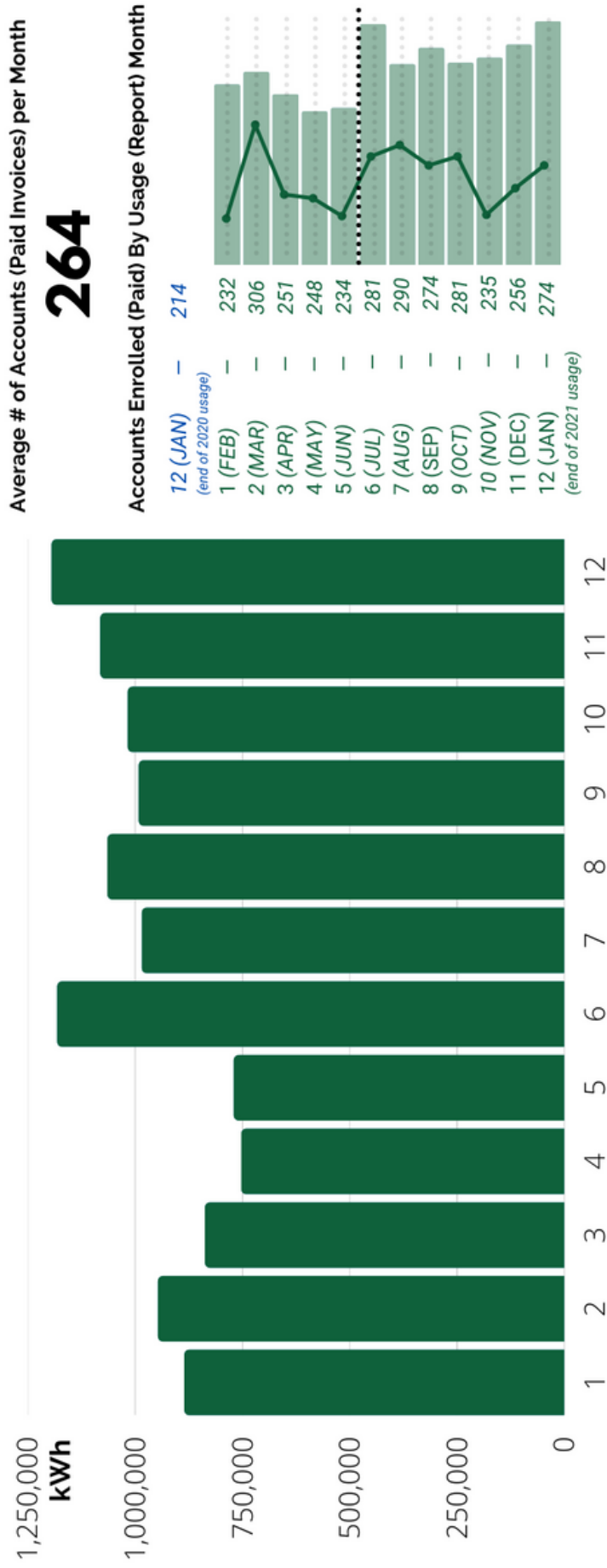
## Accounts Enrolled By Usage (Report) Month



As we transition to the new year, SOPEC continues to expand the services provided under the P3, with a particular emphasis on recruiting unique political subdivisions that have not historically been served, including regional planning organizations and resource conservancy districts, to join the SOPEC Council of Governments and expand opportunities for multi-disciplinary sustainability efforts that span across the energy, water, and transportation nexus.

# 2021 — Opt-In SOPEC Public Pricing Program (P3)

Enrolled public sector accounts within SOPEC member communities





# USDA REDA PROGRAM

*Expanding to support small commercial solar across Ohio*

# 2021



# SOPEC REDA Program

Free solar assessments  
for small businesses and agricultural producers



Free solar assessments completed in 2021 (as of December 31, 2021):

**24 Solar Assessments**

# REDA for All of Ohio

In 2021, SOPEC finished its 18-county REDA program that began in May 2019 to May 2021. In January 2021, SOPEC applied with the Ohio USDA Rural Development State Office to expand its longstanding REDA-funded program to all eligible areas and applicants within the state of Ohio. The proposed SOPEC REDA program was accepted, expanding our no-cost technical assistance and solar assessments to Ohio small businesses and agricultural producers.

Additionally, to shift the program from solar installation companies providing the solar assessments to independent solar assessment providers, SOPEC was approved to allow two independent providers to complete solar assessments in the '19-21 REDA program as a trial to eventually onboarding these providers for the approved '21-23 REDA program.

Federal funding for the 2021-2023 **Renewable Energy Development Assistance** (REDA) program of \$100,000 was reserved on 3/23/2021. SOPEC's goal to assist 100 small businesses/farmers in a 12-month performance program period is unlikely as we enter 2022, but SOPEC will utilize the full 24-month performance period for the now all-Ohio SOPEC REDA program.

By 5/24/21, SOPEC received the Financial Assistance Agreement and other vital federal forms, including a copy of SOPEC's Employee Dishonesty Insurance or bonding, to sign and return. On 7/7/21, the Financial Assistance Agreement was signed by both SOPEC and the USDA. The Performance Date on this agreement is 05/01/2021 through 04/30/2023, giving two years to complete the solar assessments. However, the program was not able to officially begin until SOPEC's employee bonding was approved on 7/20/21.

SOPEC is excited to be able to offer this service across all of Ohio into 2023 and plans to apply to continue this all-Ohio program in early 2023.

# REDA Operations

## Covid-19 disruption

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect the performance of the SOPEC REDA program, and other public-facing aspects of SOPEC's work. SOPEC has encouraged social distancing and safe practices when performing the on-site solar assessments for REDA applicants. New COVID variants forced a re-introduction of mask mandates and other protocols in certain areas, and the SOPEC REDA team was able to respond appropriately while remaining effective.

## REDA Expense Summary

*33% of Q7; 100% of Q8 (2019-2021 program), and the (Q1 & Q2) Semi-Annual Performance Period of 2021*

***TOTAL SPENT in 2021: \$69,473 (\$5,430 spent in 2022)***

***TOTAL REIMBURSED in 2021: \$15,825.75 (\$4,249 from 2020 activity) (\$39,205 provided in 2022 from 2021 activity)***

### **33% of Q7 (November 1, 2020 - January 31, 2021) REDA Expenses**

Total Spent: \$8,144.50

Total Local Match Spent: \$1,769.75

Total Federal Share Reimbursement Request: \$6,374.75

**\$6,374.75 x 33%= \$2,125 (2021) Reimbursement processed on April 6, 2021**

### **Final Q8 REDA Expenses (February 1, 2021 - April 30, 2021)**

Total Spent: \$11,323

Total Local Match Spent: \$1,872

Total Federal Share Reimbursement Request: \$9,451

**\$9,451 – Reimbursement processed on September 15, 2021**

### **Semi-Annual REDA Expenses (May 1, 2021 - October 31, 2021)**

Total Spent: \$52,720

Total Local Match Spent: \$13,515

Total Federal Share Reimbursement Request: \$39,205

**\$39,205 – Reimbursement processed on January 26, 2022**