

Bills for Village of Westfield electric customers will increase approximately 3 percent later this year to subsidize three upstate nuclear power plants, and to help support renewable power generation.

As part of the Clean Energy Standard that was approved by the state Public Service Commission in August, state utilities are being charged zero-emission credits to support the three nuclear power plants. The Clean Energy Standard calls for New York to acquire 50 percent of its energy from low-carbon resources by 2030.

The Village of Westfield is scheduled to pay \$250,000 annually during the next two years toward the zero-emission credits. It will represent a \$2.00 a month increase for the average residential customer. The zero-emission credit payment is scheduled to start April 1.

Customers will also be required to start paying toward renewable energy credits. The cost will be under \$1,000 total for the Village of Westfield, but will be increasing in future years. However, renewable energy credits will be increasing in future years.

The Village of Westfield wants our electric customers to be aware that their electric bills will be increasing slightly. This doesn't represent a rate increase coming from the Village, but an additional charge from New York State. As your utility, we are required to collect this money on a per KWH basis, and pass it directly on to the State.

In August, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo announced the state Public Service Commission's approval of the Clean Energy Standard. Cuomo said the Clean Energy Standard is the most comprehensive and ambitious clean energy mandate in the state's history to fight climate change, reduce harmful air pollution and ensure a diverse and reliable energy supply. The Clean Energy Standard will require 50 percent of New York's electricity to come from renewable energy sources like wind and solar by 2030. In its initial phase, utilities and other energy suppliers will be required to procure and phase in new renewable power resources starting with 26.31 percent of the state's total electricity load in 2017 and grow to 30.54 percent of the statewide total in 2021.

The Clean Energy Standard is enforced by requiring utilities and other energy suppliers to obtain a targeted number of renewable energy credits each year. These credits will be paid to renewable developers to help finance new renewable energy sources that will be added to the electric grid.