Since 2009, the Penn State Facilities Engineering Institute (PSFEI) has provided electricity procurement services for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania resulting in savings of over $182 million. Now, PSFEI and the PA Department of General Services Bureau of Procurement (DGS-BOP) want to bring these savings opportunities to all COSTARS members.

**How it works:** PSFEI’s certified energy professionals continually monitor electricity market conditions and determine the best times to shop for electricity. We aggregate appropriate loads to obtain the lowest pricing from suppliers who have agreed to the Commonwealth’s terms and conditions. This means you get the best pricing on terms that protect you. It’s that simple.

**Ever heard this before:** “We help you buy the lowest priced electricity and it won’t cost you anything“?

**The truth:** No one does anything for free. There are always charges, which are hidden in the cost of your electricity, based on a relationship between the broker and electricity supplier. With PSFEI and COSTARS, you’ll receive full price transparency at a highly competitive rate!

**The solution:** Join other COSTARS members and let PSFEI and DGS-BOP work for you!

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**I receive so many calls from energy suppliers, I don’t have the resources or expertise to determine what is best for our organization.**

PSFEI and DGS-BOP manage the entire procurement/award process. Once a COSTARS client submits utility usage, PSFEI and DGS-BOP will determine the best time to shop for electricity, issue a Request for Quote (RFQ), review qualified supplier price quotes, and email the successful supplier.

“…It is cost-effective and reassuring to know that the best possible choices are made and the results are given as a follow up in clear, Excel format.”

– Doreen Santiago, Senior Office Assistant, Monroe County Commissioners Office

“The ease of acquisition has been one of the biggest benefits of being a COSTARS member. Especially with limited work staff, the benefit of outside help has been tremendous.”

– Jean Zore, Chief Clerk, Elk County

“We’d absolutely recommend COSTARS to anyone who wants to save time and money and experience an easier purchasing process!”

– Karen S. Barwick, Information Technology Administrator, Monroe County Control Center 911
How will I know if I saved money and what is the cost of the service?

Sometimes the utilities pricing is the lowest. DGS-BOP will only select a supplier if savings can be achieved in comparison to the current regulated utilities’ default pricing. The client is provided with a consolidated summary of avoided costs, including current contract and regulated utility default pricing. The cost of the services is transparent ($0.001/Kwh) and is imbedded in the supplier’s pricing.

“We’ve experienced a significant savings as COSTARS members, but the biggest benefit is in the time savings in preparing numerous RFPs, soliciting suppliers, bidders and vendors, and spending time doing all of those related tasks. With the COSTARS program, you select and buy…at a reasonable price, with thoroughly vetted vendors, who understand your agency!”

– Karen S. Barwick, Information Technology Administrator, Monroe County Control Center 911

“I’d highly recommend utilizing their product expertise, highly ethical people, bidding platform, and knowledge!”

– Kathryn L. Anderson, C.P.M., Purchasing Manager, Northampton County

“The biggest benefit of being a COSTARS member is being able to piggyback off of the state contracts for a wide variety of goods and services.”

– Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager, Borough of Bellefonte

“Our greatest benefit has been obtaining qualified contractors and suppliers and cost savings.”

– Joseph V. Ruggiero, Director of Capital Improvements, Housing Authority of Monroe County

What electric suppliers will be bidding my accounts and what type of product will they be offering?

A large pool of pre-qualified suppliers will compete for COSTARS client business. These suppliers have met the Commonwealth’s qualification criteria and agreed to their terms and conditions. Only a fixed-price electricity supply product will be solicited, protecting COSTARS clients from price fluctuations and providing budget certainty.

What steps do I need to take to initiate the COSTARS/PSFEI electricity procurement services?

Current COSTARS Members
For more information contact:
Scott Harford
Energy Management Consultant
Penn State Facilities Engineering Institute
sharford@engr.psu.edu
814-863-2090

Ready to enroll in the program? Download the enrollment form at www.fei.psu.edu and follow instructions.

Interested in becoming a COSTARS Member?
Contact:
COSTARS Marketing Manager
1-866-768-7827
GS-PACostars@pa.gov

Further information on the COSTARS program is available by visiting the COSTARS website at www.costars.state.pa.us.