



North Hampton Community Choice Aggregation Program Public Hearing

**October 23, 2023
and
November 13, 2023**



What is a Community Choice Aggregation Program?

- A CCA Program is an optional buying group organized by a municipality to benefit electric consumers in the community.
- The Program enters into electricity supply contracts for all “Eligible Consumers”
- Eligible Consumers are residential and business consumers currently receiving default service from their utility (Eversource or Unitil).
- Eligible Consumers are automatically enrolled, unless they opt-out.
- Consumers currently under contract directly with third-party suppliers will not be enrolled in the program. Option to opt-in later, if they wish.

Benefits of Community Choice Aggregation

- **Choice:** No longer “stuck” with electric utility default rates
- **Leverage:** Community buying power; larger buying group attracts robust participation from leading suppliers
- **Price Stability:** Ability to secure long-term rates and avoid market price volatility
- **Optionality:**
 - Opt-out anytime without penalty
 - Opt-in at a later time
- **Public Oversight:** Electricity supplier and consultant accountable to town officials
- **Local Control:** Operate program based on community priorities and preferences
- **Product Options:**
 - Define a standard product
 - Offer one or more other opt-in products, e.g., greater renewable power content
 - Program offerings may change over time as new market opportunities develop
- **Self-funded:**
 - No burden on municipal staff or local budgets
 - No costs imposed on non-participating consumers
 - Program administration outsourced to town consultant



CCA Overcomes Shortcomings of Electric Market Choice

- **Predatory Business Practices:** Specific targeting of vulnerable consumer segments and customer inattention.
- **Predatory Contract Terms:** Beneficial rate at start converts to a much higher 'market-based' rate after initial term expires.
- **Limited Purchasing Power:** Difficult to profitably serve individual residential consumers absent imposing outsized margins.
- **Presents an Additional Market Option:** Program will not interfere with consumers who prefer to shop for themselves.

Important Elements

- **Choice** – Consumers may

 - opt-out of the Program and continue receiving supply from utility
 - leave subsequent to launch without penalty
 - opt into the Program after initial launch
- **Who keeps my lights on?** – Utility will continue to be responsible for maintaining service to your home; if you lose power, you still contact your utility
- **Billing** – You will continue to receive a single bill from your utility; the only change is a separate line item for Program supply replacing utility default service
- **Customer Service – who do I contact?**

 - **Utility:** power outage, metering, billing, payments, start/stop service
 - **CPG:** issues regarding opting in or opting out
- **Utility Services** – Utility services unaffected (budget billing, electronic payment, payment arrangements, energy assistance, energy efficiency programs)
- **Are Savings Guaranteed?** - The goal is to deliver savings over the life of the Program compared to utility default service. However, such savings and future savings cannot be guaranteed

Net Metered Consumers

- Net metered consumers may participate in the Program on an **opt-in basis**
- Net metered consumers may be unable to benefit by enrolling in the program
 - **Consider opt-in:** if kWh consumption consistently > kWh generation
 - **Don't opt-in:** if kWh generation > kWh consumption
- Currently active discussions amongst regulators, utilities, and aggregation advocates to try to facilitate participation for net metered consumers (work-in-progress).

Staying Informed

- Dedicated Program website:
 - Program details and reference material;
 - CPG's customer service number
- Town website and social media
- Community meetings

Plan Development and Approval Process

- Select Board votes to form an Electric Aggregation Committee (“EAC”) (*Jun 2023*)
- Town contracts with consultant Colonial Power Group (“CPG”) to assist with all aspects of CCA planning, regulatory compliance, and program operations (*Jun 2023*)
- **EAC prepares CCA Program Plan (“Plan”)** in coordination with CPG and in accordance with statute and rules of the Public Utilities Commission (“PUC”) (*Aug-Oct 2023*)
- **EAC holds two public hearings to receive comments on Plan** (*Oct-Nov 2023*)
- Select Board approves Plan and warrant article (*Dec 2023*)
- **Residents vote on whether to adopt Plan at Town Meeting** (*Mar 2024*)
- If passed at Town Meeting, Plan filed with PUC for review & approval (*Mar/Apr 2024*)
- PUC approves Plan (*May/Jun 2024*)
- Program launch (*Q3 2024, or later if market conditions warrant*)



Program Launch and Implementation

- Program will not commence unless and until it can offer initial rates below utility default service rates
- Town signs electric services agreement with supplier selected in competitive bid process
- Town/CPG mails notifications to all Eligible Consumers at least 30 days prior to program launch.
- Town/CPG holds public information sessions prior to launch
- Consumers that have not opted-out are enrolled in the Program
- CPG manages the transition and on-going Program administration



Questions?