

Hopkinton Community Power



Public Hearing

December 4, 2023

6:00 pm

Hopkinton Town Hall

Hopkinton Community Power Committee

- Lynn Durand - Member
- Steve Eckberg – Vice Chair
- Sarah Hoffman – Member
- Sharon Nall - Member
- Jack Ruderman - Member
- Ken Traum – Select Board Representative
- Mark Zankel - Chair

<https://www.hopkinton-nh.gov/community-power-committee-0>

Today we will cover...

- 1 | What is community power?
- 2 | How does a community establish community power?
- 3 | Our partner - Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire
- 4 | Implementation Process & Timeline
- 5 | Questions & Discussion

What is Community Power?

- ~ Community Power programs pool, or aggregate, the demand of customers in a community and purchase electric power on behalf of that community with the goal of **lowering costs** and expanding **access to renewable energy** and other innovations.
- ~ Community Power programs are enabled by New Hampshire's updated Community Power law [RSA 53-E, Relative to Aggregation of Electric Customers by Municipalities & Counties](#)
- ~ The Legislature's intent in enacting RSA 53-E was to ***“encourage voluntary, cost effective and innovative solutions to local needs with careful consideration of local conditions and opportunities”***.

TITLE III
TOWNS, CITIES, VILLAGE DISTRICTS, AND
UNINCORPORATED PLACES

Chapter 53-E
AGGREGATION OF ELECTRIC CUSTOMERS BY MUNICIPALITIES AND
COUNTIES

What is Community Power?

New Hampshire cities, towns, and counties can become the **default electricity provider** for their residents + businesses and provide related services.



Pooled Purchasing Power
for **Energy Supply**

*Economies of Scale
Flexible Energy Purchases*

Utility Company
Delivers Power

*Grid Reliability
Emergency Response
Customer Billing*

Communities Benefit from
**Value Added Services &
Programs**

*Lower Rates &
More Product Choices*

[RSA 53-E, Relative to Aggregation of Electric Customers by Municipalities & Counties](#)

Customers may switch back to utility default energy service or choose service from a Competitive Supplier

Community Power programs must be paid for *only* with revenues received from participating customers

Eversource Electric Bill: Supply & Delivery

Payment will be sent to bank
for processing on 09/24/21

\$145.64

Amount Due On 08/29/21	\$26.47
Last Payment Received On 08/25/21	-\$26.47
Balance Forward	\$0.00
Total Current Charges	\$145.64

Current Charges for Electricity

Supply

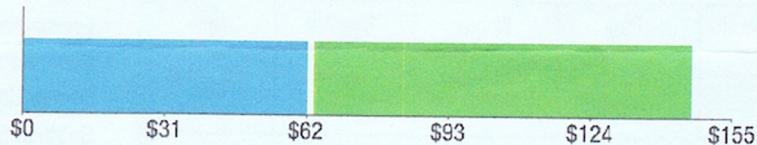
\$62.31

Cost of electricity from
Eversource

Delivery

\$83.33

Cost to deliver electricity
from Eversource



Your electric supplier is

Eversource
PO Box 330
Manchester, NH 03105-0330

Total Charges for Electricity

Your electric supplier is

PETERBOROUGH COMMUNITY POWER
PO BOX 840
CONCORD NH 03302-0840
INFO@COMMUNITYPOWERNH.GOV
866-603-7697

706.00kWh X \$0.109 **\$76.95**

Delivery

(RATE R RESIDENTIAL SVC)

Service Reference: [REDACTED]

Customer Chrg		\$13.81
kWh Distribution Chrg	706.00kWh X \$0.05177	\$36.55
Regulatory Reconciliation Adj	706.00kWh X \$-0.00016	-\$0.11
Transmission Chrg	706.00kWh X \$0.03046	\$21.50
Strnded Cst Recovery Chrg	706.00kWh X \$0.00896	\$6.33
System Benefits Chrg	706.00kWh X \$0.00743	\$5.25
Subtotal Delivery Services		\$83.33

Total Cost of Electricity **\$160.59**

Total Current Charges **\$160.59**

Benefits of Community Power



Local Control

Democratizing energy procurement to the community level



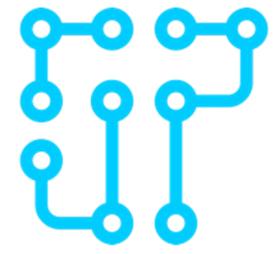
Lower Costs

Demonstrated lower rates than regulated utilities



Clean Energy

Build and buy clean energy
Support more local renewables



Resilience & Innovation

New technologies
Market competition
Price signals
Customer empowerment

“Community Power will only launch if it is able to initially offer residential default rates that are lower than those offered by Eversource and Unitil”

(Page 2 of proposed Electric Aggregation Plan)

Aug 1, 2023 – Jan 31, 2024

Electricity Choices

- ⚡ Energy customers can select from a menu of energy choices.
- ⚡ Customers are always free to choose to buy power from their utility, or from another market option, without charge.

Renewable Content	Power Options	Rate (¢/kWh)	Estimated Cost*	6-Month Savings
100%	Clean 100	15.2 ¢	± \$91 / month	Clean Premium
50%	Clean 50	12.3 ¢	± \$74 / month	± \$6
33%	Granite Plus	11.3 ¢	± \$68 / month	± \$42
23.4%	Granite Basic <i>(Default Power)</i>	10.9 ¢	± \$65 / month	± \$60
23.4%	Eversource	12.582 ¢	± \$75 / month	N/A

*Based on usage of 600 kWh per month

Key steps to establishing Hopkinton Community Power?

Form

- ❖ Select Board appoints Community Power Committee (CPC) – **COMPLETE**

Research, Planning, & Public Input

- ❖ Register with PUC – **COMPLETE**
- ❖ Get account and load data from utilities - **COMPLETE**
- ❖ Draft Electric Aggregation Plan – **UNDERWAY**
- ❖ Convene two public hearings – **SCHEDULED 12/4/23 & 1/11/24**

Key steps to establishing Hopkinton Community Power?

Town Meeting

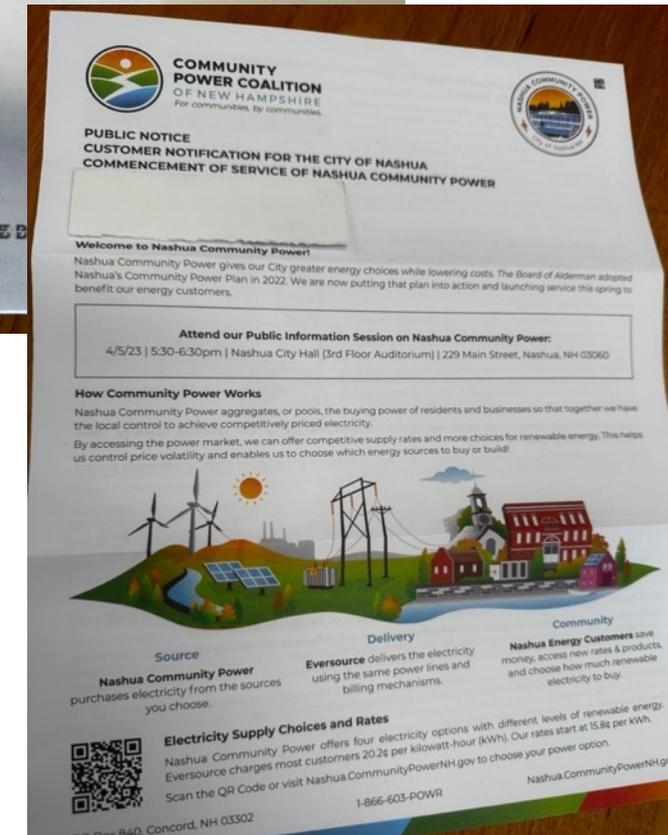
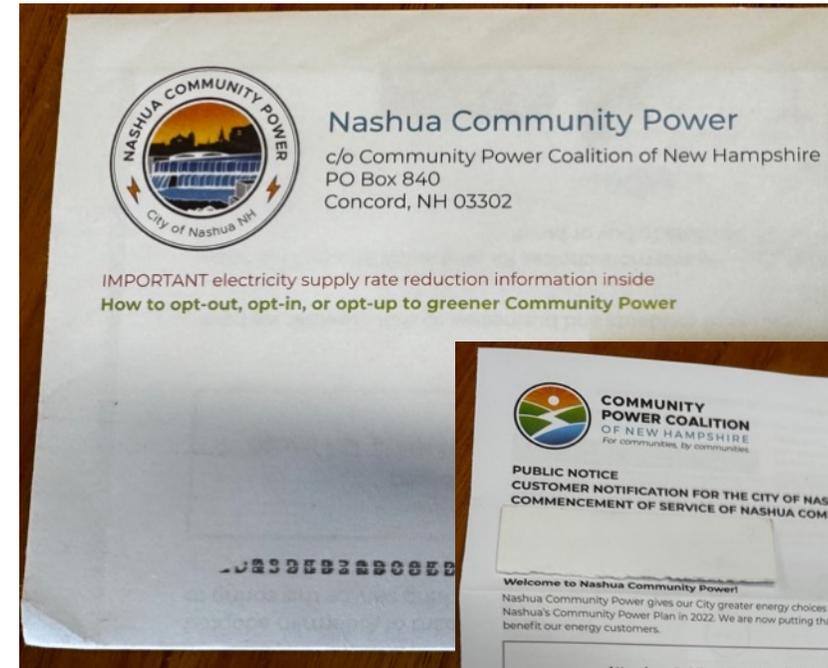
- ❖ Place the Community Power warrant article on the Town Meeting ballot – **PLANNED MARCH 2024**

Launch

- ❖ Select energy broker/power supplier - **PLANNED SPRING 2024**
- ❖ Submit final Electric Aggregation Plan to the Public Utilities Commission for review and approval – **PLANNED WINTER/SPRING 2024**
- ❖ Launch - **SUMMER 2024**

Customer Notification and Enrollment Process

- At least 30 days before program launch all electric customers will be mailed notifications including the initial fixed energy rate (\$/kWh) for Community Power service compared with Eversource/Unitil
- Customers on Eversource/Unitil default energy service able to decline participation or “opt-out”
- If a customer is already getting their power from a competitive supplier, nothing will change unless they choose to “opt-in” to Community Power.
- Eversource/Unitil will continue to deliver electricity using their poles and wires, provide billing services, and ensure reliability including outage response.
- Rates posted at least 30 days in advance; customers can switch supplier at next meter read upon request with no penalty or exit fee.
- Community Power is self-funded by rates paid by participating customers. No taxes will be used to cover program expenses.



Key Points

- ~ **If/when Hopkinton Community Power launches, most Eversource/Unitil default electric supply customers will be automatically enrolled** in the same service for a lower price. Community Power will be the **new default electricity supplier** for Hopkinton's customers.
- ~ **Participation in Community Power is voluntary.** Customers can choose to opt-out and to stay with Eversource for electric supply, or shop for another market option.
- ~ **Eversource/Unitil will continue to deliver electricity** using their poles and wires, provide billing services, and ensure reliability.
- ~ **Customers shopping with third-party suppliers will remain with their supplier** unless they choose to opt-in to Community Power.
- ~ **Community Power will be self-funded** by rates paid by participating customers. **No taxes will be used to cover program expenses.**

What is the Electric Aggregation Plan?

- ~ The Hopkinton Select Board established the Hopkinton Community Power Committee pursuant to RSA 53-E to oversee development of the Electric Aggregation Plan (EAP).
- ~ EAP details how the Community Power program will operate and comply with state legal requirements.
- ~ This is the first of two Public Hearings to educate the community about the EAP and to receive community input.

Purpose of the Electric Aggregation Plan

- ~ Defines program goals and objectives
- ~ Defines governance; implementation; customer noticing, enrollment, options
- ~ Commits municipality to comply with applicable statutes and regulations:
 - (a) *Providing universal access, reliability, and equitable treatment of all classes of customers;*
 - (b) *Meeting, at a minimum, the basic environmental and service standards established by the Public Utilities Commission and other applicable agencies and laws and rules.*

The Plan does:

Address issues required to be considered by RSA 53-E

The Plan does not:

- ~ Otherwise commit the town to any defined course of action; or
- ~ Impose any financial commitment or liability on the town or its taxpayers.

Electric Aggregation Plan Outline

Chapters:

1. Introduction
2. Overview of Community Power
 - Customer Notification & Enrollment
 - # of Accounts & Electricity Usage Estimates
 - Membership with CPCNH
 - Purpose of the Plan
 - Approval, Implementation Process, PUC Review
3. Objectives
4. Statutory Requirements
 - A. Organizational Structure of Program
 - B. Entering into & Terminating Agreements
 - C. Operation and Funding
 - D. Rate Setting, Costs, Enrollment, Options
 - E. Rights and Responsibilities of Participants
 - F. Net Metering & Group Net Metering
 - G. Electric Assistance Program
 - H. Termination of Program

Appendices:

- I. CPCNH
- II. Net Metering
- III. Load Serving Entity Services
- IV. Customer Data Protection Plan
- V. Abbreviations

Draft EAP available for review at
<https://www.hopkinton-nh.gov/community-power-committee-0>

Hopkinton's Electric Utility Accounts

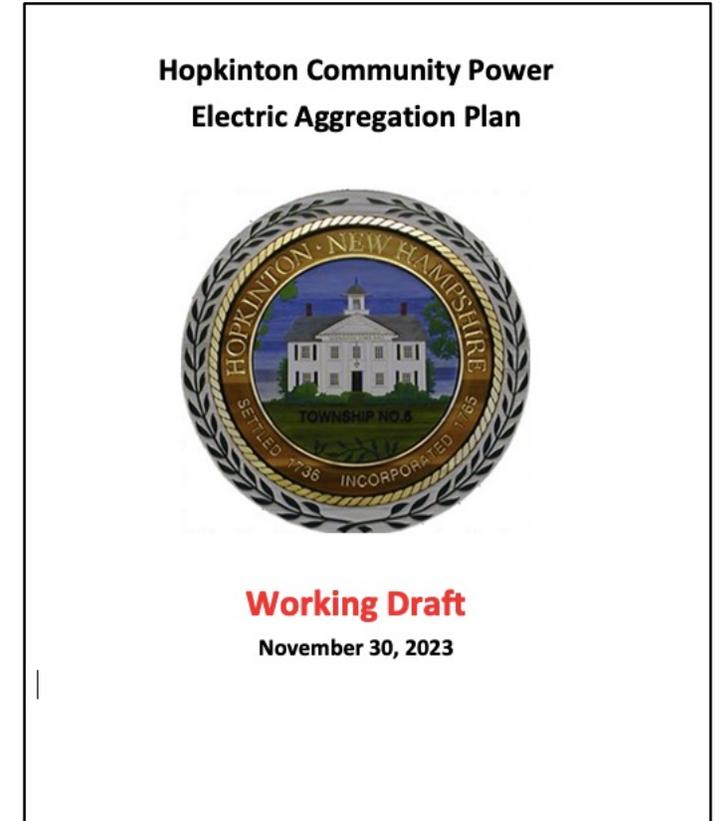
Aggregated and Synthesized Electric Account Data for Town of Hopkinton

EVERSOURCE						
<i>Aggregated data provided by Eversource for the 12 months ending August, 2023</i>						
Customer Type	Utility Default Supply Customers (<u>automatic</u> enrollment, eligible for <u>opt-out</u> notification)		Competitive Supply Customers (<u>voluntary</u> enrollment, eligible for <u>opt-in</u> notification)		Total Customers (combined Utility Default & Competitive Supply Customers)	
	Customer Accounts	Annual Usage (kWh)	Customer Accounts	Annual Usage (kWh)	Customer Accounts	Annual Usage (kWh)
Residential	2,282	15,558,979	553	4,155,505	2,835	19,714,484
Small Commercial (G)	302	5,204	120	9,382	422	14,586
Outdoor Lighting	19	71	9	17	28	88
Total Y.E. 8/23	2,603	15,564,254	682	4,164,904	3,285	19,729,158

UNITIL						
<i>Aggregated data provided by Unitil for the 12 months ending August, 2023</i>						
Customer Type	Utility Default Supply Customers (<u>automatic</u> enrollment, eligible for <u>opt-out</u> notification)		Competitive Supply Customers (<u>voluntary</u> enrollment, eligible for <u>opt-in</u> notification)		Total Customers (combined Utility Default & Competitive Supply Customers)	
	Customer Accounts	Annual Usage (MWh)	Customer Accounts	Annual Usage (kWh)	Customer Accounts	Annual Usage (kWh)
Residential	79	684,273	12	55,053	91	739,326
Small Commercial (G)	2	6,443	3	14,134	5	20,577
Outdoor Lighting						
Total Y.E. 8/23	81	690,716	15	69,187	96	759,903

Hopkinton EAP – *Draft Objectives*

1. **Lower Rates**
2. **Expanded Choices for Renewable Energy**
3. **Fiscal Stability & Financial Reserves**
4. **Consumer Protections**
5. **Freedom to Choose**
6. **Cleaner, Local Power**



Selecting a Community Power Partner

- Two models: private broker, nonprofit power agency
- We considered:
 - Rate history
 - Rate stability & flexibility
 - Termination provisions
 - Services & assistance provided
 - Governance & transparency
 - Overall community benefit
- Met with and did reference checks on two entities
- With BOS approval, working with CPCNH on program development



Community Power Coalition Members

CPCNH is a community-governed power supplier

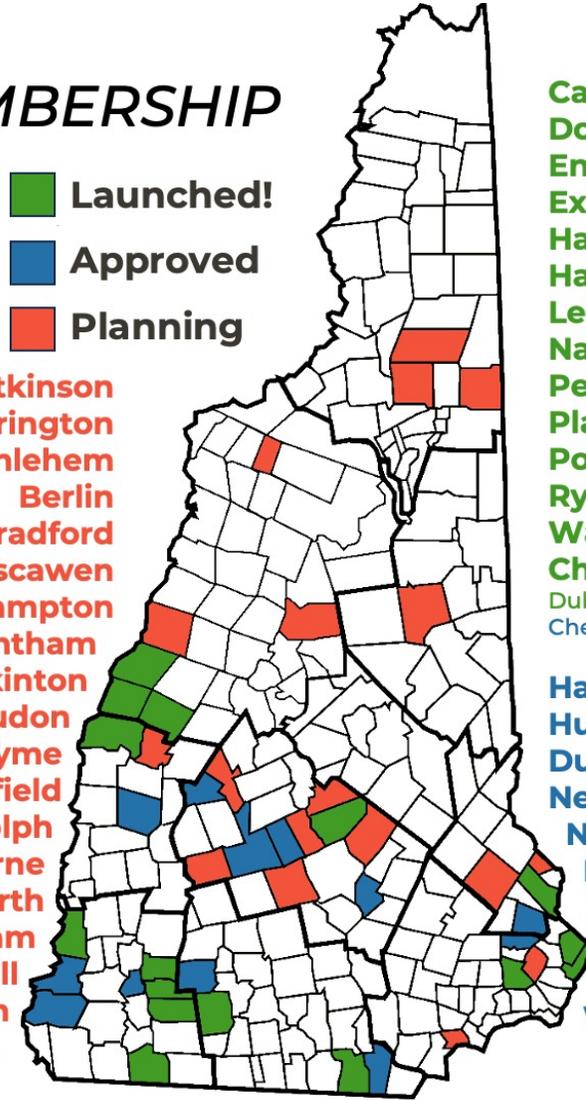
- ⚡ ~44 Municipal Members Representing >25% of NH population
- ⚡ 16 cities & towns and 1 county launched 2023
 - ~80,000+ customers
 - Larger than Unitil or Liberty loads
- ⚡ Remaining & new Members to launch 2024+
- ⚡ Many cities/towns in process of joining

All NH cities & towns are invited to join

MEMBERSHIP

- Launched!
- Approved
- Planning

Atkinson
Barrington
Bethlehem
Berlin
Bradford
Boscawen
Campton
Grantham
Hopkinton
Loudon
Lyme
Northfield
Randolph
Shelburne
Somersworth
Stratham
Sugar Hill
Tamworth
Wilmot



Canterbury
Dover
Enfield
Exeter
Hanover
Harrisville
Lebanon
Nashua
Peterborough
Plainfield
Portsmouth
Rye
Walpole
Cheshire County
Dublin, Fitzwilliam, Nelson
Chesterfield, Roxbury

Hancock
Hudson
Durham
New London
Newmarket
Newport
Pembroke
Warner
Webster
Westmoreland

Community Benefit: Savings + Reserves

- ⚡ Community Power creates savings, rate stability, value for customers by developing beneficial local energy projects and programs
- ⚡ **>\$20 Million in value** in CPCNH's first year (Apr – Dec 2023):
 - **~\$10 Million** in immediate customer bill savings
 - **~\$10 Million** in community reserves for long-term benefit

CPCNH sets rates with the objective of saving you money and offering at least one supply option at a discount relative to your utility supply rate (along with 'opt up' choices). Most utility energy rates are set twice a year: Feb. 1 and Aug. 1. Our current energy service rates will change for the next utility rate period, scheduled from Feb 1, 2024 through Aug. 31, 2024.

Rates are set through Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire, the public non-profit governed by NH cities, towns and counties. All future default rate changes will be publicly noticed at least 30 days in advance at [CommunityPowerNH.gov](https://www.energy.nh.gov/engyapps/ceps/shop.aspx) and at:

<https://www.energy.nh.gov/engyapps/ceps/shop.aspx>.

FOR COMMUNITIES, BY COMMUNITIES.



**COMMUNITY
POWER COALITION**
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Next Steps

Stay up to date on our progress:
<https://www.hopkinton-nh.gov/community-power-committee-0>

Public input

- Public hearings
- Community Power Committee meetings

Revise Electric Aggregation Plan

Submit EAP to PUC for Review

Town Meeting Warrant Article

“To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Hopkinton Community Power plan, to authorize the Select Board to implement the plan, and to take all action in furtherance thereof, pursuant to RSA 53-E. The Hopkinton Community Power plan is an opt-out program that offers more flexible electricity procurement. The plan will initially provide lower electricity rates for residents, or it will not launch. Initial participation in the plan can be declined, after which enrollment becomes voluntary.”

Hopkinton Community Power



Public Comment