



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**EASTON ANNOUNCES NEW ELECTRICITY PROGRAM
WITH LOWER RATE AND 100% GREEN PRODUCT OPTION**

Ratepayers collectively will save an estimated \$2.2 million during three-year contract

EASTON, MA – The Town of Easton is pleased to announce a municipally approved electricity program that strives to secure lower costs for residents and small business owners and includes a 100% green product option.

Following the approval of Article 20 at Town Meeting in May 2016, the Town developed and published its Aggregation Plan in compliance with Massachusetts law regarding municipal aggregation of electric consumers (M.G.L. c. 164, § 134). The Select Board approved and adopted the Aggregation Plan in April 2017, and executed a power supply agreement this March to take effect November 2020.

Renewable Energy Option

The new Easton Community Choice Power Supply Program will provide local ratepayers with two different options for their electricity:

- The Standard Plan meets the Massachusetts Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) of 28% Massachusetts Class I Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs). Mass. Class I RECs may serve to increase Massachusetts job opportunities in the renewable energy field.
- The Optional Plan involves the use 100% renewable energy via National Wind Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs).

Participating in Easton’s energy program allows for greater control over the environmental characteristics and the price of the electricity residents use. The program will help to decrease ratepayers’ carbon footprint.

Buying Electricity in Bulk

Easton signed a 36-month agreement with energy consultant Colonial Power Group and electricity supplier Dynegy Energy Services to develop electricity programs that will be affordable and incorporate renewable energy. The aggregation rate is \$0.10287/kWh, below the November 1, 2020 – April 30, 2021 National Grid Basic Service rate of \$0.12388/kWh. Standard supply customers will collectively save over \$600,000 in this six-month period. Over the 3-year term of the agreement, Easton customers will collectively save an estimated \$2.2 million in electricity costs. Scheduled to begin in November 2020, pricing changes will first be seen in customer's December 2020 bills.

“We are excited to be able to offer two options in our electricity program, allowing Easton ratepayers greater control over the energy they use along with more affordable and stable pricing,” said Easton Town Administrator Connor Read. “The wind power option gives residents concerned about climate change the opportunity to use 100% renewable energy, while both offerings are cheaper rates than the November 2020 National Grid pricing. Residents who do not wish to be enrolled can opt-out at no cost if they prefer Basic Service from NGrid, as well.”

Seamless Transition

To date, more than 150 Massachusetts communities have chosen to create their own community choice electricity programs to benefit residents.

Anyone currently on National Grid's basic rate plan will be automatically enrolled in Easton's standard program unless they choose to “opt-out.” Customers interested in using 100% renewable energy, reducing their carbon footprint even more, can request to be enrolled in the optional plan.

There are no enrollment, early termination, or cancellation fees attached to the Easton electricity program. Residents who choose to opt-out can also opt-in at a later date if they so choose at no cost. However, anyone switching from a contract with a third-party supplier may be subject to penalties or early termination fees charged by that supplier. Ratepayers should verify terms before switching.

There will be no change in electricity service received. Easton customers will continue to receive one bill from National Grid for both supply and distribution of electricity, and National Grid will process all payments. The selected electricity supplier for Easton's energy program, Dynegy Energy Services, will be listed under the “Supply Services” heading on residents' monthly National Grid bills.

Basic Service rates change twice a year or more, depending on rate class. As a result, the aggregation rate may not always be lower than the Basic Service rate. The goal of the aggregation is to deliver savings over the life of the program against National Grid Basic Service. However, such savings and future savings cannot be guaranteed.

Residents or business owners with a supplier block on their account must contact their National Grid to request that the block be removed if they want to participate in Easton's electricity program.

The Town will host representatives of Colonial Power Group for two Zoom information sessions on Wednesday, September 30, 2020 at 7 p.m. and Monday, October 5, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. The links can be found on colonialpowergroup.com/easton and easton.ma.us/. If you are unable to attend, recordings will also be posted to these sites.

To learn more about the Easton's Community Choice Power Supply Program, you may visit colonialpowergroup.com/easton or call (866) 485-5858 ext. 1.

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ABOUT COLONIAL POWER GROUP: Based in Marlborough, Mass., Colonial Power Group is the leading aggregation-consulting firm in Massachusetts. Colonial Power has been working with local governments since 2002 in the design, implementation, and management of municipal aggregation programs.