



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**BILLERICA ENERGY PROGRAM WILL GENERATE
\$700,000 IN SAVINGS FOR RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES**

BILLERICA, MA – Billerica residents and business owners will collectively save more than \$700,000 over the next 12 months, thanks to the newly created Billerica Community Choice Power Supply program.

The Town of Billerica, with the assistance of Colonial Power Group, Inc., is pleased to announce it has entered into a one-year agreement to bring energy cost-savings to the town's residents and small businesses through this initiative.

“By essentially buying our energy in bulk, we will be able to provide Billerica residents with a buffer from the periodic spikes in the cost of electricity,” said Town Manager John Curran. “We are delighted to be able to offer residents and small business owners an energy option that provides more stable pricing along with a lower overall cost.”

The Billerica Community Choice Power Supply Program is a municipal aggregation program which, according to Massachusetts law (M.G.L. c. 164, § 134), enables local government to combine the purchasing power of its residents and businesses so that it can provide them with an alternative electricity supply.

“The Billerica Community Choice program provides price stability, local control, and competition while also lowering the burden of energy costs for Billerica's residents and business community,” said Mark Cappadona, President of Colonial Power Group, Inc. “We commend Billerica's Board of Selectmen and Town Manager Curran for their forward-thinking approach to energy purchasing. By taking this action, they are helping to save residents and business owners money on their electricity costs.”

Participating residents and businesses in Billerica will see an average savings of over 5 percent in their monthly energy bills during the contract term. The program will provide a combined average savings of nearly \$59,000 per month for the town's homes and businesses during the contract term. Additionally, a green-energy option that uses 100 percent National Wind

renewable energy certificates will be available to Billerica residents and businesses choosing to opt-in to that offering.

The cost savings for Billerica residents and businesses will begin with the January 2018 meter reads (February 2018 billings).

Residents will not notice any change in their electricity service. The only discernible difference will be that Constellation NewEnergy, Inc. of Houston, Texas, the selected electricity supplier for the Community Choice program, will be printed under “Supply Services” on National Grid’s monthly bills. Residents and small business owners will continue to receive one bill from National Grid and to send payments to National Grid for processing. There will be no interruption in billing, power, or customer service.

Municipal electricity aggregation allows cities and towns to pool the electrical consumption of all ratepayers in their jurisdictions and competitively procure lower cost electricity supply on behalf of the participants. The aggregation allows the municipality to obtain better pricing than individual residents and business owners could due to economies of scale. Colonial Power Group, Inc., the Town’s consulting firm, works with state officials, utility executives, and energy industry leaders to facilitate the purchase of electricity at a rate lower than basic service rates. Since July 2013, Colonial Power has saved households and businesses across New England a total of nearly \$11 million on their electric bills.

Colonial Power Group, which serves more than 60 municipalities in Massachusetts, was chosen to design, implement, and administer the program on behalf of Billerica. Constellation NewEnergy, Inc. was selected through a competitive process.

No action is required by ratepayers to participate in this cost-saving program. The program will be operated on an opt-out basis, meaning that all Billerica residential and business customers currently on National Grid’s basic service will be automatically enrolled into the program unless they choose to opt out. You may opt out of the program at any time and there are no penalty charges.

The Town and representatives of Colonial Power Group will hold an informational session on Monday, December 11, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Buck auditorium at Town Hall to explain the Billerica Community Choice Power Supply program.