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GREEN ENERGY PROGRAM WILL BRING COST SAVINGS OF \$158,000 FOR NEW SALEM

Residents and small businesses can choose from two different renewable energy programs

NEW SALEM, MA – A new electricity program being implemented by the Town of New Salem includes the use of 100% green energy and brings cost savings for ratepayers.

The New Salem Community Choice Power Supply Program will employ 100% wind power and collectively save ratepayers more than \$158,000 over the term of the 41-month agreement with Colonial Power Group and Dynegy Energy Services, the consultant and energy supplier working with New Salem on this initiative.

The program combines the buying power of not only New Salem residents, but also the residents of 11 other Franklin County communities and the Town of Huntington. The 13 communities joined together to take advantage of **enhanced savings opportunities** and to **empower residents with greater control of their energy options**, including increasing the amount of renewable energy used. Additionally, the program – which locks in rates for the contract term - will insulate ratepayers from market fluctuations that can occur, particularly during winter months.

“The program harnesses the power of buying electricity in bulk for the benefit of New Salem residents as well as residents of 12 other area communities,” said Town Coordinator Nancy Aldrich. “We are very happy to be providing New Salem residents with a 100 percent green energy program and to be offering an optional program that will increase the amount of clean renewable electricity available.”

In addition to the 100% wind power energy program, New Salem will be offering an optional program that ratepayers may opt-in to that uses 100% Massachusetts Class I Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs). Participation in this program will ensure more renewable energy is produced in the state, thereby benefiting the environment.

The **transition to New Salem’s program will be seamless** with no interruption in billing, power, or customer service. Dynegy Energy Services, the selected electricity supplier for the Community Choice Program, will be printed under “Supply Services” on National Grid’s monthly bills. National Grid will still send only one monthly bill to residents and will continue to process all payments.

The New Salem Community Choice Power Supply Program for residents and small businesses will begin in August 2020. Basic Service rates typically change twice a year. The goal of New Salem’s program is to deliver savings over the contract term compared with the cost of National Grid Basic Service.

Ratepayers on National Grid’s Basic Service do not need to take any action to participate in New Salem’s green energy program. This is an “opt-out” program, meaning New Salem residential and business customers currently on National Grid’s Basic Service will be automatically enrolled into the program unless they choose to opt-out. Ratepayers interested in participating in the program using Mass. Class I RECs must “opt-in” to this higher level of renewable energy by requesting enrollment.

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.

The New Salem Community Choice Power Supply Program has **no enrollment or cancellation fees** whether ratepayers choose to opt-in to the higher renewable energy program or opt-out of the program entirely. Additionally, ratepayers are able to opt-in and opt-out at any time.

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.

Please note that ratepayers who have requested a supplier block on their account must contact National Grid to have the block removed if they want to enroll in New Salem’s energy program.

For more information about New Salem’s Community Choice Power Supply Program, visit www.colonialpowergroup/newsalem 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.*