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SUNDERLAND STEPS UP FOR THE ENVIRONMENT WITH RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAM

Climate-friendly options also reduce residents' costs

SUNDERLAND, MA – Climate change and sustainability are critically important issues for Sunderland residents, so much so that the Town is implementing a three-tiered community electricity program that will serve to reduce carbon emissions, build local renewable energy capacity, and provide some relief to the environment.

Scheduled for implementation in August 2020, the Sunderland Community Choice Power Supply program provides three carbon footprint-reducing options for local residents and small business owners.

Two program options involve the use of Massachusetts Class I Renewable Energy Certificates which increase local renewable energy capacity, create local green energy sector jobs, and support the local economy. The options include:

- The Standard Plan, into which electricity customers will automatically be placed, comprises 33% renewable energy (5% more than the state-required minimum) for the first five months and 53% renewable energy for the following 36 months.
- An Optional Plan involves the purchase of electricity from 100% National Wind Renewable Energy Certificates.
- A second Option Plan consists of energy derived from 100% Massachusetts Class I Renewable Energy Certificates.

“By implementing this electricity program, Sunderland residents will have a real impact on how much energy is produced in the region,” said Scott Bergeron, Chair of the Sunderland Selectboard. “We see the impact climate change is having on the world every day and taking positive steps to reduce that impact is imperative. Combine that with the ability to reduce residents’ electricity costs and implementing this program is an obvious step to take.”

In an effort to provide as much savings as possible while also increasing the availability of green energy, Sunderland joined 11 other Franklin County communities and the Town of Huntington to request bids for electricity. This group of communities has entered into a 41-month contract with energy consultant Colonial Power Group and electricity supplier Dynegy Energy Services to manage the program and supply electricity. **Sunderland ratepayers will save more than \$126,000 during the contract term.**

Sunderland's proactive renewable energy program will assist the Commonwealth in moving toward its goal of 80 percent emissions reduction by 2050. The program also includes consumer protections, such as no hidden fees and the ability to opt-in and opt-out at any time with no penalty. 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.

Residents will experience no noticeable changes as electricity moves to the new supplier - Dynegy Energy Services. The price Eversource uses to calculate the supply portion of residents' monthly electricity bill will decrease with the program's implementation in accordance with the new contract. Eversource will continue to serve as the Town's electric utility. Delivery, service, and billing will all still be handled by Eversource.

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 Eversource Basic Service. However, such savings and future savings cannot be guaranteed.

Residents and small business owners participating in Eversource's basic rate program will be automatically enrolled in Sunderland's standard plan unless they choose to opt-out. Those selecting one of the 100% renewable energy optional plans must request enrollment in their preferred option.

Important note: Residents and business owners with a supplier block on their account must contact Eversource to request that the block be removed to participate in Sunderland's new green electricity program.

To learn more about Sunderland's Community Choice Power Supply Program, visit www.colonialpowergroup/sunderland 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.