



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 30, 2016

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**CHESHIRE ENERGY PROGRAM WILL ALLOW
RATEPAYERS TO SAVE \$252,000 IN ELECTRICITY COSTS**

CHESHIRE, MA – Cheshire residents and business owners will save more than \$252,000 annually thanks to the newly created Cheshire Community Choice Power Supply program.

The Town of Cheshire and Colonial Power Group, Inc. are pleased to announce they have entered into an 18-month agreement to bring significant energy cost-savings to the town's residents and small businesses through this initiative.

“We’ve heard firsthand how the spikes in the cost of electricity can be burdensome for Cheshire residents,” said Town Administrator Mark Webber. “We’re very happy to work with Colonial Power to offer Cheshire residents and small business owners the choice of a more stable and lower cost energy option.”

The new program will help residents and business owners achieve stability and substantial savings on electricity costs. Participating residents and businesses in Cheshire will see an annual savings of up to 20 percent in their monthly energy bills and the program will provide a combined savings of as much as \$21,000 per month for the town's homes and businesses. The Cheshire Community Choice Power Supply Program complements the town's 100% Green and Renewable Energy initiatives.

“The Cheshire Community Choice program provides price stability, local control, and competition while also lowering the burden of energy costs for Cheshire's residents and business community,” said Mark Cappadona, President of Colonial Power Group, Inc. “We commend Cheshire's Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator Webber 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.”

Under the Cheshire Community Choice Power Supply program, residents will not notice any change in their electricity service. The only discernable difference will be that Hampshire Power of Northampton, Mass., the selected electricity supplier for the Community Choice program, will be printed under the “Supplier Services” of 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.

Colonial Power Group is the leading aggregation consulting firm in Massachusetts. 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 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, serving nearly 50 municipalities in Massachusetts including numerous Berkshire County communities, was chosen to design, implement, and administer the program on behalf of Cheshire. Hampshire Power was selected as the electricity supplier through a competitive process. The cost savings for Cheshire residents and businesses will begin with the May 2016 meter reads (June 2016 billings).

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 Cheshire residential and business customers currently on National Grid’s basic service will be automatically enrolled into the program unless they choose to opt out.

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ABOUT COLONIAL POWER GROUP: Based in Marlborough, Mass., Colonial Power Group is the leading aggregation-consulting firm in Massachusetts. Working with local and state government, it facilitates the purchase of electricity at a rate lower than basic service rates. Colonial Power works with state officials, utility executives, and energy industry leaders to reduce community energy costs.