



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 2, 2017

CONTACT: Mark Hawke, Mayor
978-630-1490
Mark Cappadona
508-485-5858

**GARDNER ENERGY PROGRAM WILL ALLOW
RATEPAYERS TO SAVE \$751,000 IN ELECTRICITY COSTS**

GARDNER, MA – Gardner residents and business owners will save more than \$751,000 over the next two years, thanks to the newly created Gardner Community Choice Power Supply program.

The City of Gardner, with the assistance of Colonial Power Group, Inc., is pleased to announce it has entered into a 24-month agreement to bring energy cost-savings to the city’s residents and small businesses through this initiative.

“We’ve seen how the spikes in the cost of electricity can be burdensome for Gardner residents,” said Mayor Mark Hawke. “We’re pleased to work with Colonial Power Group to offer Gardner residents and small business owners the opportunity to have a more stable and lower cost energy option.”

The new energy program will help residents and business owners achieve stability and savings on electricity costs. Participating residents and businesses in Gardner will see an annual savings of approximately 9.63 percent in their monthly energy bills during the first year and the program will provide a combined average savings of more than \$31,000 per month for the city’s homes and businesses during the contract’s term.

“The Gardner Community Choice program provides price stability, local control, and competition while also lowering the burden of energy costs for Gardner’s residents and business community,” said Mark Cappadona, President of Colonial Power Group, Inc. “We commend Mayor Hawke and Gardner’s City Council 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 Gardner Community Choice Power Supply program, residents will not notice any change in their electricity service. The only discernable difference will be that Constellation NewEnergy Inc., of Houston, Texas, the selected electricity supplier for the Community Choice program, will be printed under the “Supply Services” on 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, which serves more than 60 municipalities in Massachusetts, was chosen to design, implement, and administer the program on behalf of Gardner. Constellation NewEnergy Inc. was selected through a competitive process. The cost savings for Gardner residents and businesses will begin with the November 2017 meter reads (December 2017 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 Gardner residential and business customers currently on National Grid’s basic service will be automatically enrolled into the program unless they choose to opt out.

###



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.