



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**ORANGE'S RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAM WILL
ALLOW RATEPAYERS TO SAVE \$315,000 IN ELECTRICITY COSTS**

ORANGE, MA – Orange residents and business owners will save more than \$315,000 over the next two years, thanks to the newly created Orange Community Choice Power Supply program.

The Town of Orange, 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 town's residents and small businesses through this initiative. The town will be using 100 percent green energy derived from National Wind renewable energy certificates.

"We've seen how the spikes in the cost of electricity can be burdensome for Orange residents," said Town Treasurer Gabriele Voelker. "We're pleased to work with Colonial Power Group to offer Orange residents and small business owners the opportunity to have a more stable and lower cost energy option while also utilizing a renewable energy source which is beneficial for our environment."

The new green-energy program will help residents and business owners achieve stability and substantial savings on electricity costs. Participating residents and businesses in Orange will see an average savings of 9.29 percent in their monthly energy bills during the contract term compared to the distributor's least expensive green energy option. The program will provide a combined average savings of more than \$13,000 per month for the town's homes and businesses over the contract term.

"The Orange Community Choice program provides price stability, local control, and competition while also lowering the burden of energy costs for Orange's residents and business community," said Mark Cappadona, President of Colonial Power Group, Inc. "We commend Orange's Board of Selectmen and Town Treasurer Voelker for their forward-thinking approach to energy purchasing. By taking this action, not only are they helping to save residents and business owners money on their electricity costs, they are also helping the environment."

Under the Orange Community Choice Power Supply program, residents will not notice any change in their electricity service. The only discernable difference will be that Verde Energy USA of Norwalk, Conn., 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 Orange. Verde Energy USA was selected through a competitive process. The cost savings for Orange 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 Orange 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.