

SANDISFIELD MASSACHUSETTS

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SANDISFIELD ENERGY PROGRAM WILL SAVE RATEPAYERS \$2,800 IN ELECTRICITY COSTS OVER SIX MONTHS

SANDISFIELD, MA – Sandisfield residents and business owners will achieve approximately \$2,800 in savings in the first half of 2017, thanks to the newly created Sandisfield Community Choice Power Supply program.

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

“We recognize that the spikes in the cost of electricity can be burdensome for our residents,” said Select Board Chairman Alice Boyd. “We’re pleased to work with Colonial Power to offer Sandisfield residents and small business owners the opportunity to have a more stable and lower-cost energy option.”

The new program will help nearly 330 households as well as small business owners achieve stability and savings on electricity costs. Participating residents and businesses in Sandisfield will see an annual savings of about 4 percent in their monthly energy bills and the program will provide a combined savings of approximately \$460 per month for the town's homes and businesses.

“The Sandisfield Community Choice program provides price stability, local control, and competition while also lowering the burden of energy costs for Sandisfield's residents and business community,” said Mark Cappadona, President of Colonial Power Group, Inc. “We commend the members of Sandisfield's Board of Selectmen 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 Sandisfield 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, Connecticut, the selected electricity supplier for the Sandisfield Community Choice program, will be printed under the “Generation Charges” on monthly bills. Residents and small business owners will continue to receive one bill from Eversource and to send payments to Eversource 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 Sandisfield. Verde Energy USA was selected as the electricity supplier through a competitive process. The cost savings for Sandisfield residents and businesses will begin with the January 2017 meter reads (February 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 Sandisfield residential and business customers currently on Eversource’s basic service will be automatically enrolled into the program unless they choose to opt out.

The Town and representatives of Colonial Power Group will hold an informational session on December 5, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Annex to discuss the Sandisfield Community Choice Power Supply program.

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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.