



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**NEWBURYPORT ENERGY PROGRAM WILL GENERATE
OVER \$2,200,000 IN SAVINGS THIS WINTER**

NEWBURYPORT, MA – The City of Newburyport is pleased to announce a new its Community Choice Power Supply Program, expecting to collectively save residents over \$2,200,000 this winter.

The City of Newburyport signed a split term, ten-month contract with Direct Energy Services, which will provide residents and businesses with cost relief in a market that is seeing historically high prices.

“We are excited to announce that the Program is able to provide such great relief to our residents on their electric bills this winter,” said Mayor Sean Reardon. “The Program’s 10-month term protects the ratepayers from these historically high costs but doesn’t lock the City into these elevated prices beyond that, should the market stabilize.

Beginning with the January 2023 meter reads, the Program’s Standard Plan rate will be \$0.21760 per kWh which is 36% lower than National Grid’s winter Residential Basic Service price of \$0.33891 per kWh. The rate will then drop to \$0.13320 per kWh in May 2023 and will last until November 2023. The City will then negotiate new rates for November 2023.

The Newburyport Community Choice Power Supply Program is a municipal aggregation program which, according to Massachusetts law (M.G.L. c. 164, § 134), enables local government to combine the purchasing power of its residents and businesses so that it can provide them with an alternative electricity supply. Approximately 150 Massachusetts communities, to date, have chosen to develop community choice electricity programs to benefit their residents and small business owners.

Residents will not notice any change in their electricity service. The only discernible difference will be that Direct Energy Services of Houston, Texas, the selected electricity supplier for the Community Choice Power Supply Program, will be printed under “Supply Services” on National Grid’s 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.

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 Newburyport residential and business customers currently on National Grid's Basic Service will be automatically enrolled into the Program unless they choose to opt-out.

There are no enrollment, early termination, or cancellation fees attached to the Newburyport electricity program. Residents who choose to opt-out can also opt-in at a later date if they so choose at no cost. 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.

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 National Grid's Basic Service. However, such savings and future savings cannot be guaranteed.

Residents or business owners with a supplier block on their account must contact their National Grid to request that the block be removed if they want to participate in Newburyport's electricity program.

National Grid has several programs to help income-eligible families and customers needing special assistance meet their energy needs. To learn more visit nationalgridus.com/MA-Home/Bill-Help/Payment-Assistance-Programs.

Information sessions to answer any questions regarding Newburyport's Community Choice Power Supply Program will be held by the City and representatives of Colonial Power Group as follows:

- November 21 at 6 pm at Plum Island Tax Payers Hall, 8 Plum Island Blvd, Newbury
- November 28 at 1 pm at City Hall, 60 Pleasant Street, Newburyport
- December 15 at 6 pm at Senior Community Center, 331 High Street Newburyport

Residents may also visit colonialpowergroup.com/newburyport or call (866) 485-5858 ext. 1 to learn more about Newburyport's 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.