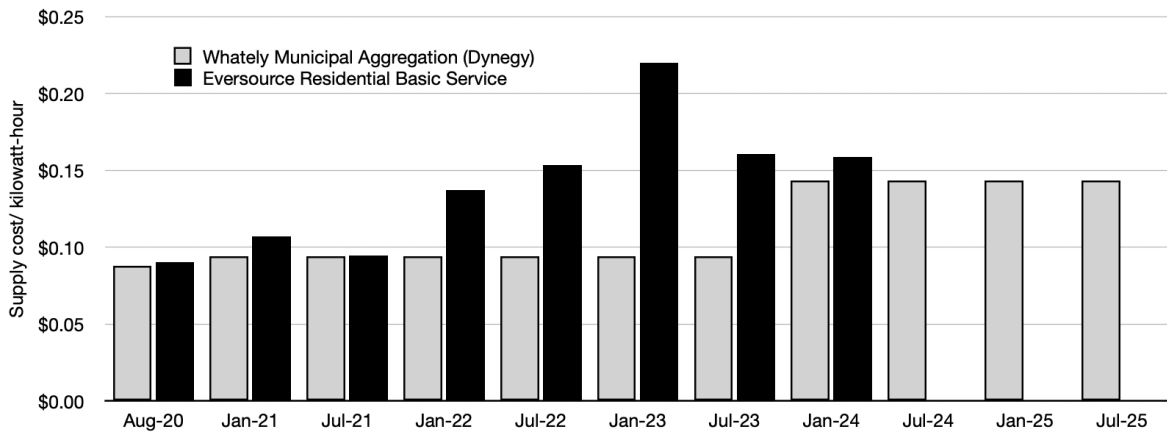


Whately's Community Choice Power Supply Program Has Saved Town Residents Money Every Year



### New Electricity Rates Starting January

By the Whately Energy Committee

Thanks to the Town of Whately's "Community Choice Power Supply Program," Whately residents have saved money on their electricity bill every month for the past 3 years (compared to Eversource's Residential Basic Service rate)!

Most Whately residents are already enrolled in the Community Choice Power Supply Program. You can check if you are by taking a look at your monthly bill from Eversource.

If the bill lists 'Dyegy' as your electricity supplier, you are already participating in this program. Dyegy supplies the electricity delivered to your home by Eversource, and when you pay your Eversource bill, Eversource reimburses Dyegy for the cost of the electricity supplied to you. If, however, your bill reads 'Basic Service', it means you opted out of the town program and are still paying Eversource to go out to bid to buy the electricity you use.

As you can see by looking at the chart included with this article, the cost of electric supply provided by Whately has remained locked-in at 9.43 cents/kWh since Jan 2021. The cost of Eversource Residential Basic Service started out at 10.7 cents/kWh in Jan 2021, rose to a high of 21.99 cents/kWh, and is currently to just over 16 cents/kWh.

You might be saying, "Wait a minute, if I'm enrolled in the town program, why then is my actual bill more than 9.43 cents/kWh?"

This is because cost of producing the electricity you use — the *supply cost* — is only one part of your monthly Eversource electricity bill. Other parts cover the cost per kWh of delivering that electricity over Eversource's power lines to your house and the costs of necessary maintenance and repairs to those power lines, as well as a number of other smaller charges. Eversource bundles all of those charges together so that you have just one bill to pay each month.

The town of Whately voted to start this Community Choice Power Supply Program — also called a "Municipal Aggregation" program — in hopes of getting cheaper and green electricity than was otherwise available, so it is great news to see how well that plan has been working.

That said, savings are not guaranteed, so why has it worked so well so far? One important reason is that Whately has an advantage over Eversource when it comes to purchasing electricity.

When the town requests bids from electrical suppliers, it can choose not only the company that will produce the electricity offering the best possible rate, it can also chose to lock that rate for multiple years, guaranteeing that your price won't rise for

the duration of the contract. It can also adjust when it goes out to bid to take better advantage of market conditions. In contrast, Eversource is required by the state to go out to bid every 6 months on a highly regulated schedule, and this means the price jumps every 6 months as well, sometimes by a large amount!

So what's new starting this January? Why are you getting postcards about new rates? The answer is that the three year contract that locked-in a standard supply rate of 9.43 cents/kWh ends this December, and a new contract starts this January. It will be no surprise to anyone who has seen how prices have risen over the past three years that the new negotiated rate that starts January 2024 will be higher than before: 14.35 cents/kWh for Whately's standard plan (or 15.64 cents/kWh if you opt for 100% renewable energy from Massachusetts and New England).

Nobody likes a price increase, but there is still some good news about the new rates: (1) Whately's new Jan 2024 rates will still be cheaper than the Eversource's new Jan through July 2024 Basic Service rate of 15.88 cents/kWh (2) Whately's rates are guaranteed for 2 full years, and (3) you can opt-out at any time. If you should ever decide you would prefer to switch back to Eversource Basic Service, you can do for free at any time. Whately and Eversource never charge any fees to switch.

Colonial Power — the company that administers the Community Choice Power Supply Program for the town of Whately — is mailing out postcards the first week of December announcing the rate change.

In keeping with our town mandate, the new standard service won't just be cheaper than Eversource Residential Basic Service this January, it will be greener too! Whately's new standard service will purchase 5% more of its electricity from new, local, carbon-emission free sources than is required by the state. You don't need to do anything to get this if you are already in the town program. Whately also offers two alternatives to this standard (default) service for its Community Choice customers.

The first of the alternatives offered by Whately — the optional National Green program — invests in renewable energy credits (REC) from older, already existing wind farms spread out across the country instead of in new Massachusetts produced renewable energy.

The National Green (100% wind) option used to be significantly cheaper than other options, so last time around, the town chose to make it the default option. This time around however, there is only a 0.05 cent/kWh difference, and the town chose to make the program that invested more in new, locally produced wind, water, and solar based renewable energy its default offer. If you prefer the National Green option, follow the instructions on the postcard in your mail.

The second of the two alternatives offered by Whately is the New England Green option. This option maximizes the amount of your electricity that comes from new, local, carbon-emission free sources. It is the greenest option available, yet it is still cheaper than what you would pay for electricity under Eversource Basic Service, starting this January. If you would prefer this option, follow the instructions on the postcard you receive in the mail. Alternatively, you can sign up at [colonialpowergroup.com/whately](http://colonialpowergroup.com/whately) once that website is updated to reflect the new rates.

It is important to note that we don't yet know what the price of Eversource Basic Service will be for the 2nd half of 2024 or either half of 2025, so even though we've had success so far, future savings cannot be guaranteed. That depends on what happens to the cost of electricity in the future. Our guess is the market cost of electricity will continue to rise over time — what's your prediction? — but if you ever decide you would prefer to switch to Eversource Basic Service, remember that you can do so at any time for free. To opt out of the town program, you guessed it, follow the instructions on the postcard in the mail!