

Learn about:

Community Power for Hollis

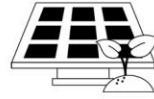
Lower Pricing



Local Control



Renewable Energy



In 2019 New Hampshire passed RSA 53-E, colloquially referred to as the “Community Power” law. The purpose of the law is to

“allow municipalities and counties to aggregate retail electric customers, as necessary, to provide such customers access to competitive markets for supplies of electricity and related energy services. The general court finds that aggregation may provide small customers with similar opportunities to those available to larger customers in obtaining lower electric costs, reliable service, and secure energy supplies. The purpose of aggregation shall be to encourage voluntary, cost effective and innovative solutions to local needs with careful consideration of local conditions and opportunities.”

What is the Hollis Energy Committee Doing with respect to Community Power?

The Hollis Energy Committee (HEC) is currently presenting the option to the Town of Hollis residents to take advantage of Community Power and is soliciting feedback from the community. If the community response is positive, the HEC will advise the Selectboard in determining a path forward and help inform the drafting of warrant articles to be voted on at the next town meeting authorizing our local government to procure power on behalf of town residents.

What is Community Power (sometimes referred to as “Community Choice Aggregation”)?

Community Power/ Choice Aggregation (CCA) are programs that allow local governments to procure power on behalf of their residents, businesses, and municipal accounts from an alternative supplier while still receiving transmission and distribution service from their existing utility provider. CCAs are an attractive option for communities that want more local control over their electricity sources, lower electricity prices and/or more green power than is offered by the default utility. By aggregating demand across an entire community, cities and towns gain leverage to negotiate better rates with competitive suppliers and can have access to greener power sources.

“Community Power”, which in New Hampshire is authorized by RSA 53-E, democratizes energy purchasing by empowering towns, cities and counties to choose where their electricity comes from and how it is generated on behalf of their residents and businesses. RSA 53-E also provides communities the option but not the obligation to engage in additional value-add offerings such as directing local energy efficiency programs.

What is Community Power?



New Hampshire cities, towns, and counties procure electric power supply on behalf of their residents and businesses and provide related customer services (local programs, Net Energy Metering supply rates, etc.)



Pooled Purchasing Power
For **Energy Supply**

Utility Company
Delivers Power

Communities Benefit from
Value Added Programs & Services

(Customers may switch back to utility default supply or take service from a Competitive Supplier)

Why would we want to switch to Community Power?

Why choose Community Power?



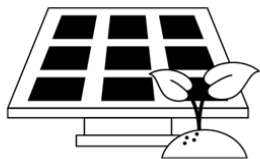
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Electricity Market Innovation



Today our energy decisions are made primarily by a default electricity supplier (EverSource) that has no incentive to pursue lower pricing for us or generate our electricity in a way that is responsive to our local preferences. With Community Power we can first and foremost aggregate our individual demand so that we can collectively realize materially less expensive electricity costs. As a community, we can also decide if and to what extent we want to affect our sources of supply based on other criteria such as local power versus generated far away and polluting versus cleaner sources. Today, these decisions are made for us elsewhere. With Community Power we can make these decisions in the future.

Who will manage the transmission and distribution lines? Who will I call if my power goes out? What about in an emergency?

None of the above changes with Community Power. Transmission and distribution infrastructure will continue to be managed as it is today, and Eversource will remain the main point of contact for any issues. Their role “keeping the lights on” is unchanged.

How is Community Power different from how my electric service works today?

Although in principle residential ratepayers in New Hampshire have competitive options for their electricity, the options are limited and sometimes even more expensive than the “default” rate offered by Eversource. That is why approximately 80% of New Hampshire residents are on default service. In contrast, the town of Hollis aggregates the town facilities’ electrical load with other local communities and bids out the electricity service to competitive suppliers for superior rates.

How Town of Hollis Buys Power



The town of Hollis buys electricity through load aggregation of 9 towns and 6 school districts by NRPC. Aggregation lowers the electricity cost. Community Power would do the same thing but for the town’s residents.

	Aggregation for Municipal Load		Community Power for Hollis Residents
Electricity Buyer	Town of Hollis buildings	→	Hollis Residents
Aggregator	Nashua Regional Planning Commission	→	Town of Hollis -> Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire
Electricity Cost Savings since 2017	\$75,192	→	\$

Community Power would apply the same logic but for all the residents/ ratepayers of Hollis. All of the residents’ load would be aggregated and bid out for pricing by competitive suppliers. As a resident, the main change you would notice is that if you do not select a competitive supplier then your default supplier would become Hollis Community Power (upon its formation and implementation) rather than Eversource (as it is today). If after the switch, you wished to switch to a competitive supplier or back to Eversource, you could do that at any time with no penalty.

If we decided to pursue Community Power, how would it work?

Communities in New Hampshire are currently pursuing two different paths to implement Community Power.

The first path is to independently sign up a consultant and energy broker to provide all of the services to enable a community to independently pursue its own energy objectives. Keene, NH is currently pursuing this model with Standard Energy as their broker/ partner. Standard is also offering that other entities that work with it may be pooled with Keene’s load to get all their customers the best pricing possible.

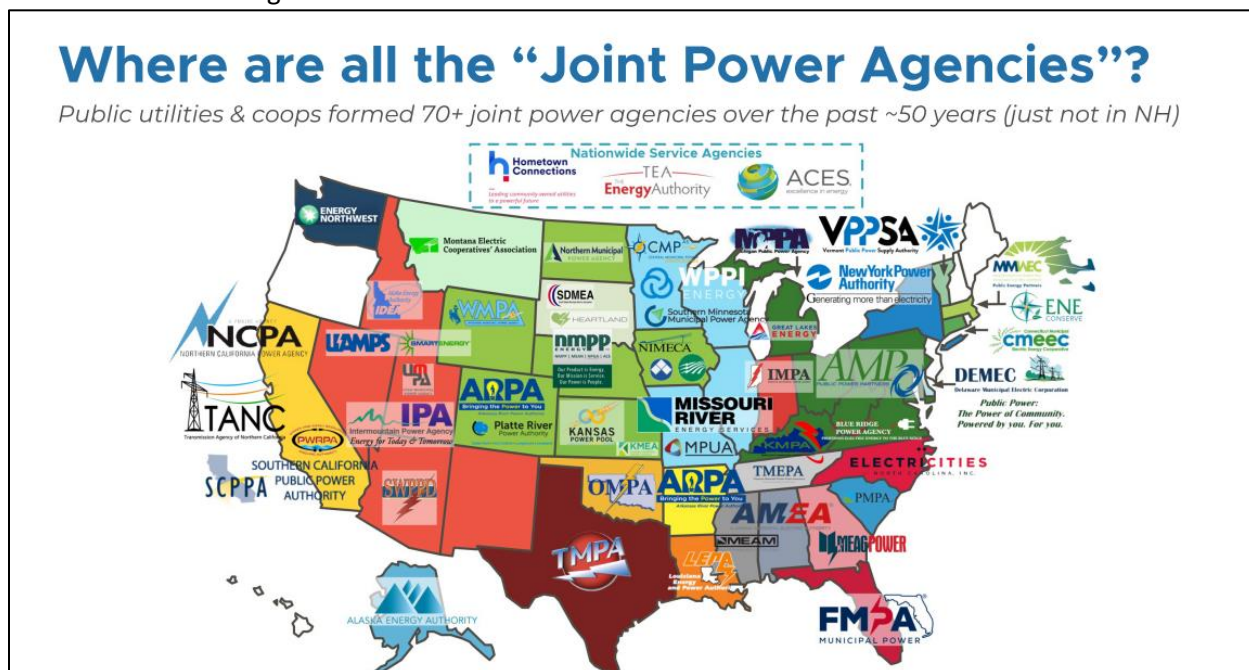
The second path is to join the [Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire](#). CPCNH is modeled on best practices from across the US in which many communities band together in order to support a single

central organization that can manage an array of electricity and value-added offerings that individual member communities can opt-into. This allows for there to be a professional and experienced work force, the largest possible aggregation and cost sharing such that communities still see the savings of Community Power. The first towns that approved a Joint Power Agreement to be a part of the founding communities of CPCNH include: Nashua, Lebanon, Hanover, Exeter, Dover, Rye and Harrisville. Since that founding group formed in 2021, the number of communities has grown to 19, representing more than 20% of New Hampshire's total population.

The HEC recommends that the Town of Hollis join CPCNH if and when community feedback confirms interest in pursuing Community Power for the town. CPCNH will be by far the largest aggregation of load suggesting it will be able to negotiate the best rates. Hollis residents will be cost sharing with a far larger group of municipalities and still have a meaningful voice in shaping the offerings available to Hollis residents.

What is the risk/ liability to the Town of Hollis of joining the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH)?

None. To join CPCNH, communities sign onto a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). Per below, JPAs are common instruments across the US. Once CPCNH is formed through the JPA any counterparties to CPCNH will have no legal recourse to the town of Hollis.



If Hollis transitions to Community Power and I don't want to change my electricity supplier what can I do?

If Hollis, as a community, chooses to transition to Community Power, then all residents currently on default/Eversource service will automatically be transition to community power unless they opt-out. RSA-53E has specific requirements to ensure that ratepayers are made aware of any changes of default supplier before they happen and are given the option to opt-out of those changes. At anytime, any resident/ ratepayer may opt-out of Community Power and choose to revert to Eversource or a competitive supplier as they do today.

I have more questions, how do I get them answered?

Please email any questions to CommunityPowerHollis@gmail.com.

What should I do if I support Community Power for Hollis?

Please email CommunityPowerHollis@gmail.com.

Let the Selectboard know.

What should I do if I'm against Community Power for Hollis?

Please email CommunityPowerHollis@gmail.com.

Let the Selectboard know.