



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT: Brian Domina,
Town Administrator
413-665-4400 x1
Mark Cappadona
508-485-5858 x3

WHATELY TAKES PROACTIVE STEP FOR CLIMATE, RESIDENTS WITH ITS RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAM

WHATELY, MA – The Town of Whately is pleased to announce the implementation of an electricity program that will build local renewable energy capacity, create new job opportunities, and save Whately residents and business owners an estimated \$160,000 over the lifetime of the agreement.

“Residents are highly supportive of increasing the use of local renewable energy and of the Town taking action to reduce the impact of climate change,” said Joyce Palmer-Fortune, Chair of the Whately Selectboard. “But knowing that the program offers a low, fixed 3 year rate that can also save residents money is what really makes this a no-brainer.”

Whately is part of a consortium of 11 Franklin County communities and the Town of Huntington that have signed a 41-month agreement to implement an electricity aggregation program that will reduce carbon emissions and stabilize energy prices. The Whately Community Choice Power Supply program will begin in August 2020 and will provide electricity customers with three choices for renewable energy. All three choices meet and exceed the Massachusetts Renewable Energy Portfolio (RPS) requirements, including the Standard Plan.

The options are

- The Standard Plan, which uses 100% National Wind Renewable Energy Credits (RECs)
- Optional Plan #1 adds 25% MA Class I RECs.
- Optional Plan #2 uses 100% Massachusetts Class I RECs

Optional Plans 1 and 2 include the use of Massachusetts Class I Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs), which serve to increase local renewable energy capacity, create more job opportunities in the local energy sector, and support the regional economy.

“We are excited to be able to offer electricity program options that include such high percentages of renewable energy,” Palmer-Fortune said. “This can make a real difference in the creation of additional renewable energy in Massachusetts.”

The Whately municipal electricity program is slated for implementation in August 2020. Energy consultant Colonial Power Group will implement and manage the program and Dynegy Energy Services will supply electricity. Collectively, Whately residents and small business owners will realize an estimated **savings of \$160,000 over the term of the contract**. Average combined monthly savings of approximately \$4,500 during that time period.

“In addition to providing price stability and local control for residents, the Whately Community Choice program will help the Commonwealth move closer to its goal of 80 percent emissions reduction by 2050,” said Mark Cappadona, President of Colonial Power Group. “This program is very environmentally friendly.”

Residents will experience no noticeable changes as electricity moves to the new supplier. Eversource will continue to serve as the Town’s electric utility and will continue to handle delivery, service, and billing.

The goal of the aggregation is to deliver savings over the life of the program against Eversource Basic Service. Eversource 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, even though the long term 3 year rates for the Standard Plan and Option #1 are both lower than Eversource’s average of 10.4 cents/kWh for the last 3 years. We anticipate a savings of at least \$160,000 over the term of the contract.-However, such savings and future savings cannot be guaranteed.

Residents and small business owners participating in Eversource’s basic rate program will be automatically enrolled in Whately’s standard plan, providing electricity from 100% wind power, unless they choose to opt-out. Ratepayers selecting one of Whately’s optional plans will need to request enrollment in their preferred option.

Unlike contracts with some competitive electricity suppliers, **there are no fees for enrollment or cancellation**. Whately residents and small business owners can opt-in and opt-out of the program without any penalty. However, anyone switching from a contract with a competitive supplier may be subject to penalties or early termination fees charged by that supplier. Ratepayers should verify terms before switching.

Important note: Residents and business owners with a supplier block on their account must contact Eversource to have the block removed before being able to participate in Whately’s renewable electricity program.

For additional information about Whately’s Community Choice Power Supply Program, visit www.colonialpowergroup/whately or call (866) 485-5858 ext. 1.

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ABOUT COLONIAL POWER GROUP: *Based in Marlborough, Mass., Colonial Power Group is the leading aggregation-consulting firm in Massachusetts. Colonial Power has been working with local governments since 2002 in the design, implementation and management of municipal aggregation programs.*