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ASHLAND RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAM IS PROJECTED TO SAVE RATEPAYERS \$785,000 IN ELECTRICITY COSTS

Ashland, MA – The Town of Ashland is pleased to announce that the Ashland Community Choice Power Supply program aggregation rate will not be going up this winter, bringing energy cost-savings to the town's residents through this initiative. The Town will be using 100 percent green energy, 77 percent of which is derived from National Wind renewable energy certificates.

Ashland residents will collectively save an estimated \$785,000 in the first year of the new contract, thanks to the Ashland Community Choice Power Supply program.

"We are happy to provide this green energy program to Ashland residents," said Michael Herbert, Ashland Town Manager. "By using aggregation, which allows the Town to buy energy in bulk, we are able to offer Ashland ratepayers a more stable and lower cost energy option while also utilizing a renewable energy source that is beneficial for our environment."

The Ashland Community Choice Power Supply Program is a municipal aggregation program which, in accordance with 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.

"The Ashland Community Choice program provides local control and competition while also lowering the burden of energy costs for Ashland's ratepayers," said Mark Cappadona, President of Colonial Power Group, Inc. "We commend Ashland for their forward-thinking approach to energy purchasing. By taking this action, not only are they helping to save ratepayers money on their electricity costs, they are also helping the environment."

Participating residents in Ashland will see an average savings of 20 percent in their energy bills this winter and a total average savings of 12 percent in their energy bills during the first year of the new contract term. Residents are projected to save a combined \$50,000 per month in the first year of the program's new contract.

Participating residents will not notice any change in their electricity service. The only discernible difference will be that Public Power will be printed under "Supplier Services" on Eversource's monthly bills. Residents 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, which serves more than 60 municipalities in Massachusetts, was chosen to design, implement, and administer the program on behalf of Ashland. Public Power was selected through a competitive process.

Residents may also visit <u>http://www.colonialpowergroup.com/ashland</u> or call (866) 485-5858 ext. 1 to learn more about the Ashland Community Choice Power Supply Program or to opt-in or opt-out.