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**BERLIN ENERGY PROGRAM WILL SAVE RATEPAYERS  
\$22,000 IN ELECTRICITY COSTS OVER SIX MONTHS**

BERLIN, MA – Berlin residents and business owners will achieve more than \$22,000 in savings in the first half of 2017, thanks to the newly created Berlin Community Choice Power Supply program.

The Town of Berlin and Colonial Power Group, Inc. are pleased to announce they have entered into a six-month agreement to bring significant energy cost-savings to the town’s residents and small businesses through this initiative.

“We recognize that the spikes in the cost of electricity can be burdensome for our residents,” said Selectmen Chairman Judith Booman. “We’re pleased to work with Colonial Power to offer Berlin residents and small business owners the opportunity to have a more stable and lower-cost energy option.”

The new program will help nearly 1,200 households as well as small business owners achieve stability and savings on electricity costs. Participating residents and businesses in Berlin will see an annual savings of about 8 percent in their monthly energy bills and the program will provide a combined savings of nearly \$3,700 per month for the town’s homes and businesses.

“The Berlin Community Choice program provides price stability, local control, and competition while also lowering the burden of energy costs for Berlin’s residents and business community,” said Mark Cappadona, President of Colonial Power Group, Inc. “We commend the members of Berlin’s Board of Selectmen for their forward-thinking approach to energy purchasing. By taking this action, they are helping to save residents and business owners money on their electricity costs.”

Under the Berlin Community Choice Power Supply program, residents will not notice any change in their electricity service. The only discernable difference will be that Verde Energy USA of Norwalk, Connecticut, the selected electricity supplier for the Berlin Community Choice program, will be printed under the “Generation Charges” on 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.

Colonial Power Group is the leading aggregation consulting firm in Massachusetts. Municipal electricity aggregation allows cities and towns to pool the electrical consumption of all ratepayers in their jurisdictions and competitively procure lower cost electricity supply on behalf of the participants. The aggregation allows the municipality to obtain better pricing than individual residents and business owners could due to economies of scale. Colonial Power works with state officials, utility executives, and energy industry leaders to facilitate the purchase of electricity at a rate lower than basic service rates. Since July 2013, Colonial Power has saved households and businesses across New England a total of nearly \$11 million on their electric bills.

Colonial Power Group, which serves more than 60 municipalities in Massachusetts, was chosen to design, implement, and administer the program on behalf of Berlin. Verde Energy USA was selected as the electricity supplier through a competitive process. The cost savings for Berlin homeowners and businesses will begin with the January 2017 meter reads (February 2017 billings).

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 Berlin residential and business customers currently on National Grid’s basic service will be automatically enrolled into the program unless they choose to opt out.

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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.*