

Exeter's Progress Toward Community Power

WHERE WE'VE BEEN

At the Town Meeting on March 8, 2022, the Exeter voters overwhelmingly supported, by a vote of 2352 to 474, the adoption of an Electric Aggregation Plan. This will allow the town to move forward with implementing a Community Power Program. The steps to the town vote involved:

- In May of 2021, the Exeter Select Board authorized the formation of the Exeter Community Power Aggregation Committee, (ECPAC)
- The ECPAC consulted with the Community Power Coalition of NH and other NH communities investigating community power and confirmed that Exeter residents and businesses could benefit from a community power program.
- In the fall of 2021, ECPAC held information sessions and public hearings to both explain community power and to receive feedback.
- In December, 2021, the Committee presented an Electric Aggregation Plan (EAP) to the Selectboard who approved it unanimously and included a warrant article on the town ballot. A copy of the EAP can be found on the ECPAC website.



WHAT'S NEXT?

Implementation of the Community Power Program involves more steps involving collaboration with the state and utilities. The steps and anticipated timelines include the following:

- The NH Public Utilities Commission (PUC) must issue regulations, pending legislative approval, governing NH Community Power Programs: summer 2022
- Exeter presents our Electric Aggregation Plan (EAP) to the PUC for approval: summer 2022
- Upon approval of Exeter's EAP, the Town will contract with service providers to administer the program including negotiating energy supply contracts, providing customer relation services etc.
- Full launch of the Community Power Program will occur as long as contracted rates are lower than Unil's then current default rates: April 2023.
- Customers will receive notification and information on program selection within 30 days after the launch.

For more information:

Community Power Coalition of NH

www.cpcnh.org

Exeter's Community Power Web Page

www.exeternh.gov/bcc-cpac

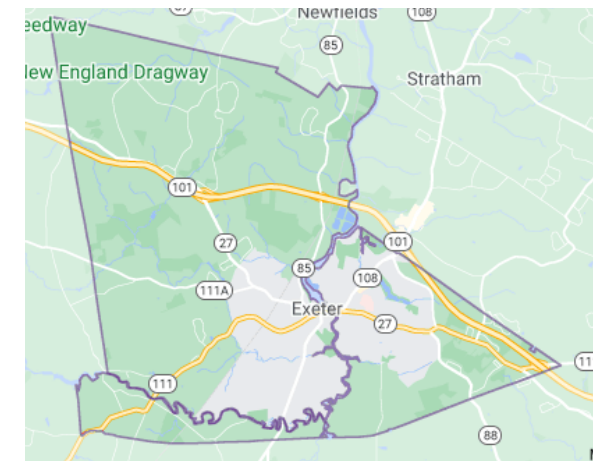


*The ECPAC is associated with the Town of Exeter Energy Committee

Exeter Community Power Aggregation

NEW!

What you need to know about our electricity



What is Community Power Aggregation?

In many states across the country, municipalities and counties have launched regional Community Power Aggregation programs as a means of taking control of their combined electricity purchases, both to reduce the cost to consumers and to push for production of more renewable energy.

In New Hampshire, Community Power Aggregation (CPA), authorized by NH RSA 53-E, works by having a large group of customers come together to buy their electricity directly from the producer instead of having the utility, such as Unitil, purchase it. The benefit of initiating a CPA in Exeter is to be able to offer residents and customers a higher mix of renewable energy supplies at comparatively lower costs than currently available.

Currently, Exeter's primary utility provider, Unitil, purchases electric power for most Exeter residents and businesses every six months. This is called the "default supply". If approved by Exeter, Community Power would allow the town to purchase electric power on behalf of residents, businesses, and municipal accounts from alternative energy suppliers. Customers can choose to opt out of Community Power agreement at any time. Unitil would continue to deliver the electricity, maintain the equipment and lines and handle billing.

The current "default supply" includes about 20% in renewable sources. The intention of the Community Power plan is to add other options, some with greater percentages of renewables at competitive prices.

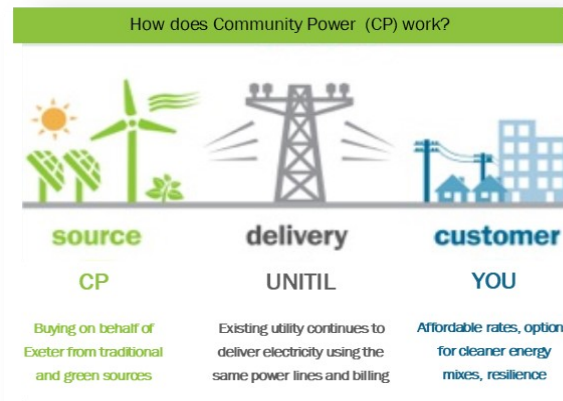
Benefits

LOCAL CONTROL: Making decisions for the town and getting the benefit of economies of scale to lower costs and increase renewables in the electric supply.

CUSTOMER CHOICE: Customers can choose what types of energy supply they want to be using and can also choose whether to participate in the program

CLEAN ENERGY: Through choice at both the municipal and individual customer levels, Exeter can both benefit from and invest in the development of clean energy resources

INNOVATION: Community Power programs can create a number of benefits for residents and businesses including: affordable rates, green power options, demand response and time varying rates, greater access to rooftop solar, home energy storage or other technology innovations.



Energy Source: COMMUNITY POWER—Pooled Purchasing Power for Energy Supply

Energy Delivery: UTILITY—Delivers electricity, maintains equipment, handles billing

Energy Customer: YOU—Benefits from affordable rates, local control, more clean energy

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the cost Exeter residents and businesses?

A: There is no additional cost to Exeter taxpayers to participate in a Community Power program. Resident and business electricity costs will depend what the CPA has negotiated and on what mix of energy sources they chose.

Q: Why is Exeter investigating Community Power now?

A: A Community Power has been allowed in NH since electric deregulation in 1993. It has never been used because of flaws and limitations in the governing law (RSA 53-E). That law was changed in 2019 and since then a coalition of about 15 NH communities, including Exeter, has formed to facilitate Community Power programs. Based on recommendations from the Energy Committee, the Exeter Select Board formed an Electric Aggregation Committee in May 2021 to develop a plan for establishing Exeter Community Power.

Q: Now that the Town has adopted the Plan, backed by unanimous recommendation of the Selectboard, will I be required to participate in the Community Power program

A: No. However, you will be automatically included unless you opt out, which you can easily do at any time. If you already receive power from an alternative provider, you will not be included in Exeter's program unless you choose to opt in.

Q: How will low-income customers be accommodated?

A: We don't anticipate there will be any change in assistance available to low income households as a result of shifting to a community power energy supply model.

STILL MORE QUESTIONS?

[HTTPS://WWW.EXETERNH.GOV/BCC-CPAC](https://www.exeternh.gov/bcc-cpac)