



## Exeter Community Power Program

# Electric Aggregation Plan Select Board Presentation

December 6, 2021 – 7:00PM

Nowak Room – Town Offices

# Agenda

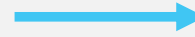
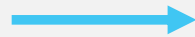
- 1. Recap on Community Power & Required Steps**
- 2. Content of Draft Aggregation Plan for Exeter**
- 3. Next Steps**
- 4. Questions & Comments**

# What is Community Power?

- ❖ A Community Power program allows municipalities to purchase energy supply on behalf of its residents and businesses with the goal of lowering costs and expanding access to renewable energy and other innovations.
- ❖ Community power was enabled in New Hampshire with electric deregulation in the 1990s which separated electric **generation** from **distribution**. Changes in the Community Power law ([RSA 53-E](#)) made in 2019 have made CP more feasible.
- ❖ Community Power is a 'buying cooperative' for electricity and allows many towns and cities to join together to create an even larger market.
- ❖ Exeter itself has purchased its power for municipal use through a competitive supplier for more than 10 years. About 10% of residential customers do as well.

# What is Community Power?

New Hampshire cities, towns, and counties can procure **electric power supply** on behalf of their residents and businesses and provide related services.



## **Pooled Purchasing Power for ENERGY SUPPLY**

- Access to competitive markets
- Potential for lower cost & price stability
- Option to source power locally & access more renewables

## **Unitil for DISTRIBUTION**

- Owns & maintains the power grid
- Delivers power
- Ensures reliable electric service
- Handles billing and customer service

## **Added Choice and benefits for CUSTOMERS**

- Affordable rates
- Access to green power options
- Time-of-Use rate options
- Solar, storage, electric vehicle support

## KEY POINTS

- ❖ **Community Power** pertains only to the purchase of electricity supply, not to how it is delivered.
- ❖ **Unitil** will continue to deliver electricity to customers, and to own and operate the local distribution system (poles, wires, transformers, sub-stations, etc.). They will also continue to provide customer service and billing.
- ❖ **Community Choice:** Community Power allows communities to choose their power source, enables the cooperative purchase of energy to potentially lower rates, improve price stability and increase renewable content.
- ❖ **Participation in Community Power is voluntary.** Customers receiving the default supply will be automatically enrolled unless they opt out, BUT they can opt-out anytime there after.

## Required Steps per RSA 53-E

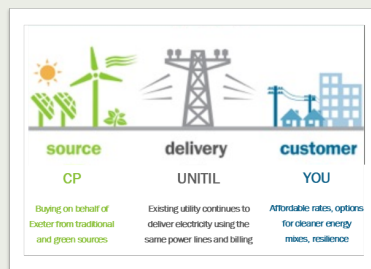
1. Select Board forms an Electric Aggregation Committee.
2. The aggregation committee drafts a Community Power Aggregation Plan
3. Aggregation committee solicits public input and hold public hearings on Plan
4. The Select Board decides whether or not to submit the Community Power Aggregation Plan to Town Meeting for adoption.
5. If adopted at Town Meeting, mailed written notification sent to affected utility customers 30+ days before program begins.
6. A public information meeting is held to explain the program and answer questions (held within 15 days of above notification).
7. Customers are afforded the right to opt-out of the power aggregation program's alternative default service anytime within 30 day of notification of rates.

EXETER  
COMMUNITY POWER PROGRAM



**DRAFT**  
**EXETER ENERGY AGGREGATION PLAN**

November 26, 2021



# Electric Aggregation Plan Overview

## Sections:

1. Introduction to Community Power
2. Purpose and Goals
3. Implementation of Community Power in NH
4. Program Organization and Administration
5. Customer Participation
6. Operation and Funding
7. Planning Product Options
8. Inventory of Customer Demand
9. Community Power Coalitions of NH
10. Net Metering Compensations
11. Public Input Process



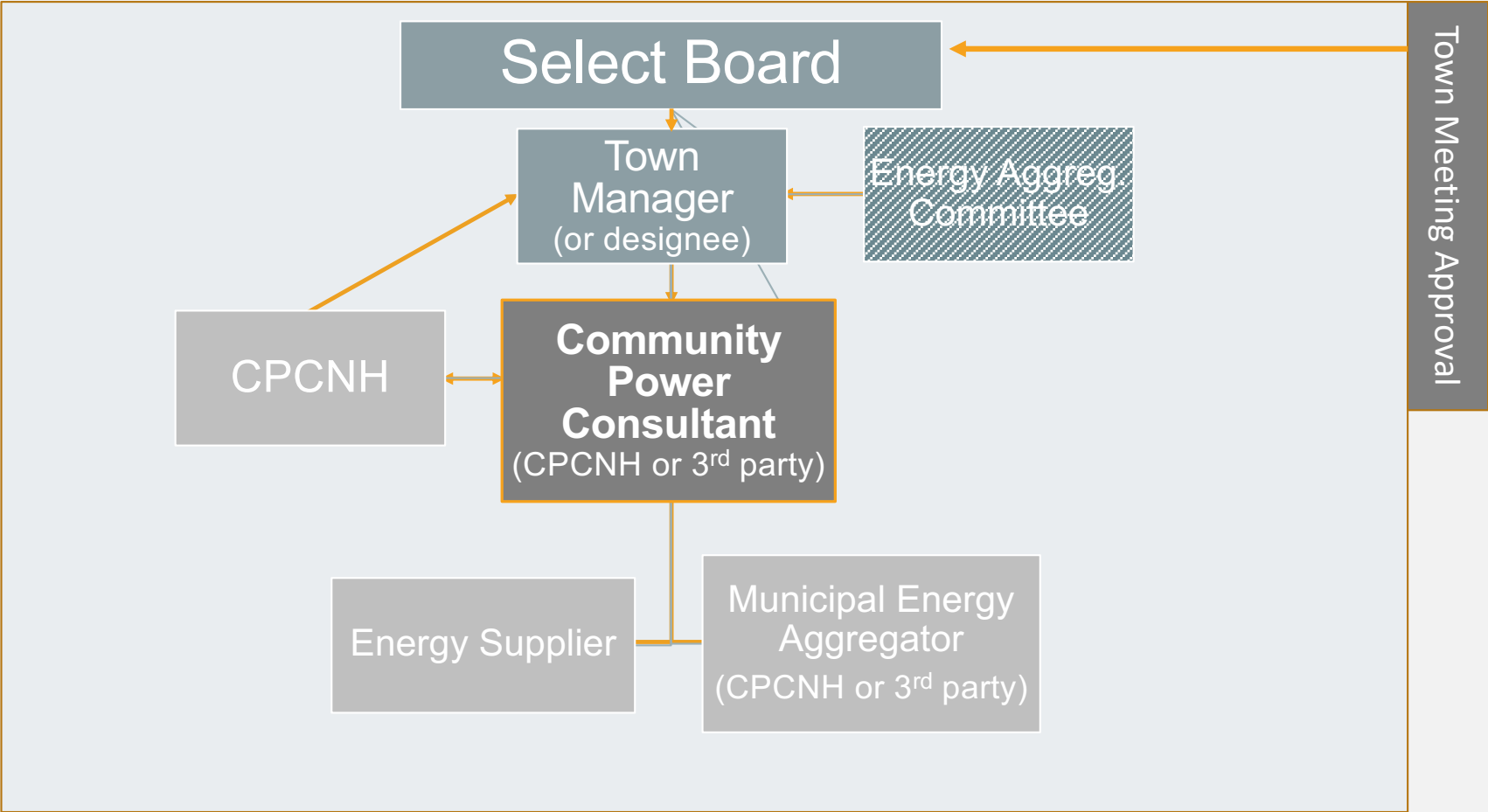
## As defined in the Plan, Exeter Community Power will:

- ❖ **Serve as the default electricity supplier** for customers on an “opt-out” basis
- ❖ **Offer renewable energy rate tiers and service options** to customers on an "opt-in" basis such as more renewable energy and time-varying rates
- ❖ **Operate on a competitive basis** – Customers switched to the Exeter Community Power default supply will be able to switch back to Unitil default service or other supplier *with no penalty*.
- ❖ **Be self-funded** by rates paid by participating customers – The Town will not use taxes to cover program expenses.
- ❖ **The Town will contract for services** and power supplies to implement and operate the program through CPCNH or community power consultant, minimizing impact on staff.
- ❖ **Will Not Launch unless** the new default energy rate is at or lower than existing Unitil rate

# Organizational Structure

- **Select Board:** Overall responsibility for program and responsible for contracting for services to operate program.
- **Town Manager:** Town manager or designee is responsible for competitive bidding for services of community power consultant/service provider and management oversight.
- **Exeter Aggregation Committee/Energy Committee:** Provide advisory support on ongoing operation as needed.
- **Community Power Consultant/Service Provider:** Under direction of Town Manager: procure energy supply contracts, coordinate with Unitil, customer support and communication.
- **Competative Energy Supplier:** the source of the purchased energy supply
- **Municipal Energy Aggregator:** Municipal association or third party entity (such as CPCNH) that aggregates energy demand in order to purchase more competitive energy supplies.
- **Community Power Coalition of NH:** source of technical assistance and possibly both energy aggregator and community power consultant/service provider

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



## Customer Notification and Enrollment Process

- At least 30 days before program launch all electric customers will be mailed notification that will include the initial default rate for Exeter Community Power service compared with Unitil.
- Customers currently on default energy service provided by Unitil will be able to decline participation or “opt-out” of Exeter Community Power by a return postcard, online, or by calling a customer service number.
- If a customer is already getting their power from a competitive supplier, nothing will change unless they choose to switch and “opt-in” to Exeter Community Power.
- New utility customers will get similar opt-out notices.
- All Exeter Community Power default service customers will always be able switch to the Unitil default supplier at next meter read upon request with no penalty or exit fee.

# Operations and Funding

- As stipulated the RSA 53-E, customers who choose not to participate in Exeter Community Power **will not be responsible for costs associated with the program.**
- All costs of the Exeter Community Power Program will be funded through the electric service agreement negotiated with community power consultant and paid through the per kWh rate.
- The per kWh rate will pay for
  - The cost of energy
  - Community power consultant/service provider costs
  - Financial reserve account
- The reserve account is established to counter energy price fluctuations, as program collateral, and to fund future energy projects and initiatives.
- The program will be operated through a contracted service provider (CPCNH or other) with minimal impact on town staff.

## 3 Components of Energy Supply Rate

Cost of  
Energy

Cost of  
Services

Cost of  
Reserve

# Planned Initial Electric Supply Options

Example of a default service product and optional rates that could be offered to customers:

	Automatic Enrollment	OPTIONAL PRODUCTS	
	Default Service	Green Start ("Opt-Up" Option)	Green Prime ("Opt-Up" Option)
Attributes	Meets or exceeds Renewable content of Unitil Default (~22%)	~50% Renewable	~80-100% Renewable
Price	Meets or beats Unitil Default at launch	Slightly higher or competitive w/ default utility rate	Higher than default utility rate

# Exeter Community Power Next Steps

## Study Phase

✓ The Exeter Energy Committee updates Select Board about RSA 53-E and new Community Power opportunities in Fall/Winter 2020/2021.

✓ Select Board creates Energy Aggregation Committee (ECPAC) in June 2021 to study the benefits and prepare Energy Aggregation Plan

## Development & Community Education Phase

✓ The Select Board signed joint powers agreement with CPCNH

✓ Education materials developed and Q&A panel held.

✓ ECPAC holds 2 public hearings on Plan: 11/29/21 and 12/13/21.

ECPAC finds Community Power to be in best long term interest of Town

## Adoption Phase

Plan will be presented to Select Board for consideration on Dec. 6.

If decision is made to move forward in 2022, a warrant article to approve the Energy Aggregation Plan, and Program, to be presented at the Deliberative Session.

Town Meeting vote t March Town Meeting

## Implementation Phase

If approved at Town Meeting:

- Submit Plan for approval following adoption of PUC rules
- Bid & select community power consultant/service provider
- Select Board will approve an Electric Service Agreement
- If rate < default, customer notifications will be mailed (opt-out, opt-in)
- Public meetings >30 days
- Launch Program

# Questions/Comments?

## **MORE INFORMATION:**

**<https://www.exeternh.gov/bcc-cpac>**

### **Resources:**

- ✓ Community Power Brochure
- ✓ Exeter Energy Aggregation Plan
- ✓ Presentation Slides on the Energy Aggregation Plan
- ✓ Frequently Asked Questions & Q&A Panel video
- ✓ CPCNH link

**NEXT PUBLIC HEARING/INFORMATION SESSION on December 13, 2021**