

Community Conversation Meeting #1

9/21 2020

Participant Questions ...



... about the Pros and Cons:

What would be the benefit of joining with other communities?

Pooling within the Harrisville community and with other towns and cities results in access to bulk rates that are lower than retail rates. The Town's consumption last year was roughly 4m kWh. Brokers view this as a "tiny" account, and don't foresee offering a rate for this size account that would make a Community Power Plan an attractive opportunity.

Whereas the prospect of pooling with other towns and cities increases purchase power. By way of an example: Community Power NH (CPNH) estimates a large, substantive start-up pool. Sponsored by its three "first mover towns" of Nashua, Lebanon and Hanover, the total electric load will be larger than that of the third largest utility in NH.

What possible downsides to this? What objections do you anticipate?

The decisions and challenges that will emerge will have to do with finding our way to making good community decisions about the aggregation plan — for instance, whether to set up opt-out or opt-in participation, how to balance pricing and renewable goals, how to prioritize reserve fund projects, and such.

If the town approves the warrant article, how much of the population must participate?

There is not a set minimum participation rate to enter into an aggregation, or pooling coalition. The more households or ratepayers included in the Community Power Plan the

larger the purchase power we bring to an aggregation or pooling coalition.

The pool of ratepayers will also determine what can be accumulated to a Reserve Fund over time, in turn, to the benefit of the Town and participating ratepayers.

About the Implementation Process:

Once approved, how long to begin — what is involved up front?

If the Town endorses a Community Aggregation Plan at Town Meeting 2021, the Select Board and Electric Aggregation Committee would proceed by setting up the organizational structure of the Community Aggregation Plan in order to provide formal governance and oversight of the ensuing stages of launching the Plan -- approving rates, notifying customers, hosting public meetings, and enrolling customers. We would also need to select the broker, or CPNH (which offers more than a broker), as the supplier for our aggregation. Potentially, this could actualize by September 2021.

Is this renegotiated periodically? will the participating communities have influence over the % of renewable?

Yes, the Harrisville community can anticipate contracts would be renegotiated periodically, at least every 2 or 3 years, and expect to participate in determining rates and the renewable energy portfolio. (See questions regarding renewables.)

About Account Processing:

Say more about the logistics of getting power and billing when it's aggregated? When you pay your electric bill does some money go to the supplier and some money go to Eversource as the distributor?

Yes, notice that your Eversource bill displays "supply" and "distribution" charges. If the Town endorses a Community Aggregation Plan, we can expect one utility bill to be split and displayed exactly as it is currently.

Reserve Fund Qs:

What is the source of funding for the Reserve Fund? Is the reserve fund something we can depend on, say more about the commitment to the reserve fund, and who would manage the reserve fund?

If the Town endorses a Community Aggregation Plan to include a provision for a Reserve Fund, the Plan Reserve Fund would be self funded (as would be the whole plan). Such a Reserve Fund would be funded through a small per-kilowatt-hour charge. Reserve Funds would be designed to invest in related programs, for example the development of weatherization programs, local renewable generation, building upgrades, or transportation electrification.

It's worth noting the incremental, short and long-term qualities of a Community Power Aggregation Plan, and the amounts that would accrue in a Fund over time, in addition to the targets set and achieved for renewable energy sources.

Renewable Portfolio Qs:

What is involved in increasing the % of renewable?

At the heart of Community Power Plans is the opportunity to reduce dependence on fossil fuels by providing carbon free, affordable and reliable electricity and innovative programs.

How much renewable energy should be included in the Town's Plan would be referred to as the "renewable portfolio standard". If the Town endorses renewable portfolio standards and sets target amounts, then those targets would be included in the Plan.

It's worth noting the incremental, short and long-term qualities of a Community Power Aggregation Plan, and how such a timeline is plotted relative to the targets set and achieved for renewable energy sources.

Has anyone indicated a price for 90 or 100% renewable versus the price for 10 - 0% renewable?

The Electric Aggregation Committee is exploring one and multi-tiered plans to include in the Community Aggregation Plan design. Surveying what is happening across the state and the country, we attended a presentation by Silicon Valley Green Energy. By way of an example of what's possible, here's the two-tiered plan their program offers participants:

GreenStart	GreenPrime
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carbon-free• 50% wind and solar• 50% hydropower• Less \$ than default service	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carbon-free• 100% wind and solar• A few \$/month more than default service

Net Metering Qs:

Do we have any sense of how or whether aggregation will impact a person's calculus who is considering near-term investment in a home solar array?

A Community Power program can set its own net metering rates and terms.

The program can decide to set those to the same as the statewide net metering program, or potentially make net metering even more attractive.

There is not a large impact on a person's calculus who is considering near-term investment in home solar -- there is potential for more sophisticated and/or favorable net metering approaches down the line (e.g., time-of-use rates, pairing solar with energy storage, and such).

What does Community Power mean for households and businesses that have solar and use net metering?

If the Town approves an Electric Aggregation Plan, the Plan must address how net metered electricity exported to the distribution grid would be compensated and accounted for.

Suggestions and observations:

Consider: To aggregate means to pool. If so, "pool" may be a friendly word to use in explaining this.

Good idea, there is a lot of industry jargon in the language of this endeavor.

The term "aggregate" is used in the language of the law, RSA 53-E, and in the utility industry overall. So the Harrisville community does need to know the meaning of the prevailing term, aggregate or aggregation.

"Pool" is a perfectly serviceable way to think about this. Maybe a short glossary would be helpful if there are other obscure terms -- would you be interested in flagging the words that need translation? ;-)