



City of New Bedford
Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor

City of New Bedford
Office of the Mayor
Contact: Jonathan Carvalho
(508) 979-1410
icarvalho@newbedford-ma.gov

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P R E S S R E L E A S E

City of New Bedford has renewed its program to continue to cut electricity costs

*Program brought in more than \$1 million in electric bill
savings to New Bedford residents and small businesses*

New Bedford, Massachusetts – The City of New Bedford will continue its electricity aggregation program under a new three-year supply contract set to start in January 2018.

New Bedford is part of a buying group of 23 communities stretching from the South Coast to northern Middlesex County that originally launched their Community Electricity Aggregation (CEA) programs in January 2016. By purchasing together, these communities have collectively saved over \$8 million for their residents to date and have now renewed their supply contracts for another three years. New Bedford's savings for homeowners and businesses was \$1,076,863.

New Bedford's partners include two dozen cities and towns across the region: Acushnet, Attleboro, Carver, Dartmouth, Dedham, Dighton, Douglas, Dracut, Fairhaven, Fall River, Freetown, Marion, Mattapoissett, New Bedford, Northbridge, Norton, Plainville, Rehoboth, Seekonk, Somerset, Swansea, Westford, and Westport. This Community Electricity Aggregation buying group is the largest in Massachusetts and the third largest of its kind in the country.

In addition to savings, in an environment of continuing rate volatility, these aggregation programs have successfully provided safe harbor for rate payers with one fixed rate while maintaining the freedom to leave the program at any time without penalty. The goals of the program are to provide ratepayers with reduced electric rates, price stability and a responsible alternative to utility rates.

The new electric rate is fixed at \$0.10122 per kilowatt hour (kWh) from January 2018 to January 2021. This compares favorably with the Basic Service rate for Eversource from January 1, 2018 to June 30, 2018 which will be \$0.13157 per kWh.

The electricity supply will be provided by Public Power, LLC. Public Power won a highly competitive bid conducted by consultant Good Energy in April 2017, beating out two of the nation's largest power companies. The supplier name will change from Constellation to Public Power and this will be reflected along with the new rate of \$0.10122 per kilowatt hour on your January 2018 bill which you will receive in February 2018.

While the aggregation rate compares favorably with the winter rate of Eversource, there is no guarantee of future savings under the aggregation program. The Eversource Basic Service supply rate changes every six months.

- If you are currently in the program, no action is required to continue participation.
- If you have opted out of the original program, you may still join the program by contacting Public Power, LLC at 800- 830-2944, or by email at customercare@ppandu.com.
- If you are on the Basic Service with Eversource and have not previously opted out, you will be sent a letter that details the program.
- Residents who wish to join the program (including residents who previously opted out or who are currently with a third-party supplier) may still join the program by contacting Public Power, LLC at 800-830-2944, or by email at customercare@ppandu.com. Please note that residents currently on with a third-party supplier should check for any early termination fees associated with their existing supply contract prior to joining the new program.

Residents are advised that no one affiliated with the program will call, email or knock on residents' doors asking them to enroll or re-enroll. As before, there is no penalty or termination fee for leaving the program at any time.

About Community Electricity Aggregation (CEA):

As communities across the country have sought to take more control over their energy costs and usage, Community Electricity Aggregation has become increasingly popular. In Massachusetts, CEA is also known as "municipal aggregation" and was made possible by utility deregulation in the late 1990s. CEA is a process whereby a municipality or, in this case, multiple municipalities, aggregate the electrical load of residents and businesses within their jurisdictional boundaries to purchase electricity in bulk in the competitive market.

The CEA program does not affect the delivery of electric service. Any problems with electric service, including outages, should continue to be reported to Eversource at 800-592-2000.

For questions or concerns about the CEA program, please contact the New Bedford Energy Now (NBEN), at (508) 991 - 6193

Visit www.masscea.com for additional information about the Community Electricity Aggregation program.

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