

# PLAN SUMMARY AND STATUS

## Cohasset Community Choice Electricity Aggregation

### What is Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)?

CCA is a state program to help towns get cheaper electricity for residents and businesses through the power of bulk purchasing, and to offer affordable renewable energy options to lower greenhouse gas emissions. At the 2019 Cohasset Annual Town Meeting last April, Cohasset voters authorized the Board of Selectmen to develop a CCA plan. Voters will be able to authorize implementation of the proposed plan at the 2020 Annual Town Meeting.

### What is the status of Cohasset's CCA?

The draft plan is ready for public review and comment. Cohasset residents can review program documents (found on the [Cohasset Board of Selectmen webpage](#)) and are invited to comment between December 4 and December 18 by email to [Townmanager@cohassetma.org](mailto:Townmanager@cohassetma.org). On December 17 residents are invited to come to a public meeting and offer the Board of Selectmen oral or written comments in person. The plan was drafted by Good Energy in conjunction with the Town Manager and the Cohasset Alternative Energy Committee (Good Energy is a consulting and brokerage firm which has worked on electricity aggregation programs with many Massachusetts towns). After the comment period, all comments will be attached to the plan and the plan will be submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities for approval.

### What are the plan options?

Participants will have three plan options:

- 1) **A least-cost base plan** with the minimum amount of renewable energy required by state law (which will be 16% in 2020);
- 2) **The standard plan**, which is expected to include as much green energy at or below the current National Grid base price (e.g., 26% green energy), but is subject to market conditions at the time of the bid; and
- 3) **A premium plan with 100% green energy.**

The exact amount of renewable energy in the standard plan will be determined by market conditions at the time bids are solicited, and the intention is to set the portion of green energy in the standard plan as high as possible while still keeping the rate below National Grid's base price. Prices will remain fixed for the duration of the contract period, which will be two to four years as decided by the Board of Selectmen based on bids received from energy suppliers.

## **After the comment period, what's next?**

At the 2020 Annual Town Meeting next spring, Cohasset voters will decide whether or not to proceed with implementation of the plan. If residents vote to proceed, bids will be solicited from electricity generators. The Board of Selectmen will select the winning bidder. Every Cohasset resident will then be notified by mail, and given 30 days to make a decision about their participation in the bulk purchasing electricity (CCA) program. If a resident chooses the standard plan (which has an anticipated 10% more renewable energy than required by law), nothing more is required for the resident to be automatically enrolled. If a resident wishes to enroll in the base plan (cheapest) or the premium plan (100% green), the resident will need to contact the supplier to change their enrollment. A resident can choose not to participate altogether by returning an opt-out card.

## **Does the automatic enrollment feature lock in customers?**

No. The automatic enrollment feature is required by state law, but there is absolutely no risk to the customer – if a customer does not return the opt-out card and is automatically enrolled, they can opt out of the program at any time with no penalty.

## **Does this program apply to electricity users supplied by an electricity supply company or competitive retailer other than National Grid?**

No. Automatic enrollment only applies to National Grid's basic service customers - anyone with a 3<sup>rd</sup> party contract for electricity will have to terminate the contract with the competitive supplier before they can participate in Cohasset's CCA program.

## **Why is electricity bulk purchasing (CCA) a great opportunity for Cohasset?**

Residents in more than one hundred towns across Massachusetts already have saved money with Community Choice Electricity Aggregation. Cohasset residents and businesses will soon be able to join them so they also can obtain bargain rates on electricity. In fact, Cohasset intends to join with Marshfield and Scituate to contract with an electricity supplier, which will leverage the power of bulk purchasing even further. Another great benefit is that Cohasset residents will be able to obtain more renewable energy for less cost than is currently available with National Grid! This will reduce our carbon footprint and give us a win for the climate.

If you have any other questions, please contact:

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