



**Canterbury Community Power  
Electric Aggregation Plan**

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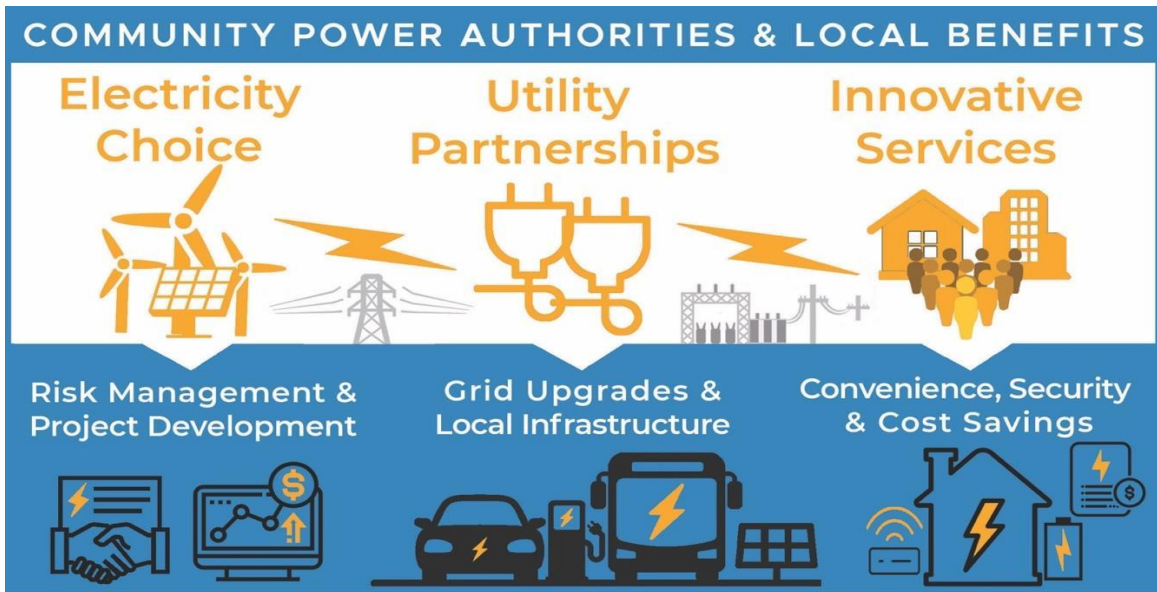
## **I. INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNITY POWER**

New Hampshire's updated Community Power law ([RSA 53-E](#), as amended by SB 286, effective October 1, 2019) is a bipartisan policy designed to further democratize, evolve, and enhance the economic efficiency of our electric power industry.

The Legislature's intent in enacting RSA 53-E was to "*encourage voluntary, cost effective and innovative solutions to local needs with careful consideration of local conditions and opportunities.*" (Refer to <https://www.cpcnh.org/legislative-context> for a summary of the legislative context and local control authorities of Community Power.) To achieve this goal, RSA 53-E authorizes local governments (cities, towns, and counties) to launch Community Power programs that:

- Provide electricity supply service to residents and businesses, who are notified and enrolled on an "opt-in" customer choice or "opt-out" default service basis and may thereafter leave or rejoin the program (by switching suppliers in advance of their next billing cycle date);
- Procure a reliable supply of "all-requirements" electricity, inclusive of Renewable Portfolio Standard requirements, with the option to participate directly in the ISO New England wholesale market (as a load-serving entity on behalf of participating customers);
- Offer a range of innovative services, products, new Net Energy Metering supply rates, and local programs to participating customers;
- Establish a joint powers agency with other Community Power programs to share services, contract for energy project developments, and facilitate related energy initiatives; and
- Work collaboratively with distribution utilities, regulators, policymakers, and innovative energy businesses to help modernize our electrical grid and market infrastructure.

These authorities and local benefits are depicted in the graphic below:



Distribution utilities will continue to deliver power to all customers, regardless of whether they are supplied electricity by new Community Power programs or Competitive Electric Power Suppliers (or have chosen to switch back to utility-provided default service).

## **II. OVERVIEW OF CANTERBURY COMMUNITY POWER**

Canterbury Community Power is a program authorized under RSA 53:E to provide electricity supply service for the Town’s residents, businesses, and other types of customers. Providing electricity supply involves being responsible for procuring electric energy generation (supply) to match customer loads (demand) in real time, except when the grid goes down. **The program will only launch if it is able to initially offer residential default rates lower than those offered by the investor-owned electric distribution utilities.** Thereafter, the program will:

- Serve as the default electricity supplier for all customers on a default “opt-out” basis, except that customers served by NH Electric Co-Op will be offered service on an “opt-in” basis;
- Offer innovative services and energy rates to customers on an "opt-in" or "opt-up" basis (such as 100% renewable premium products, time-varying rates and Net Energy Metering generation credits for customers with solar photovoltaics);
- Operate on a competitive basis, in that customers may choose to switch energy suppliers among Canterbury Community Power, Competitive Electric Power Suppliers, or one of Canterbury’s three electric distribution utilities—Unitil, Eversource, or the New Hampshire Electric Co-op (NHEC); and
- Be self-funded through revenues generated by participating customers; the Town will not use taxes to cover program expenses.

The electric distribution utilities will continue to own and operate the distribution grid and be responsible for delivering power to all customers within the Town. Customers will continue to be charged for utility delivery services at rates set by the Public Utilities Commission.

The Select Board, in coordination with advisory support from the Canterbury Electric Aggregation Committee (referred to hereinafter as the “Canterbury Community Power Committee,” “CCPC,” or simply “the Committee”), will authorize the Town Administrator to contract for the necessary services and power supplies to implement and operate the program, and continue to provide oversight over the program thereafter.

### **A. CUSTOMER NOTIFICATION AND ENROLLMENT PROCESS**

Prior to launch of Canterbury Community Power, all eligible customers will be mailed notifications and provided the opportunity to “opt-out” or “opt-in” to the program, depending on whether they currently take default energy service provided by an electric distribution utility or buy energy from a Competitive Electric Power Supplier:

- Customers already served by NHEC and/or a Competitive Electric Power Supplier will be notified and may request to “opt-in” to the program; and
- Customers currently on default energy service provided by an investor-owned electric distribution utility (Unitil or Eversource) will be notified, provided the opportunity to decline participation (by “opting-out”), and thereafter will be transferred to Canterbury Community Power if they do not opt-out.

Notifications to customers on utility-provided default energy service will include the initial fixed rate set by the Select Board for Canterbury Community Power’s default service, compared with the electric distribution utility’s rate, be mailed to customers at least 30 days in advance of program launch and provide instructions for customers to decline participation (for example, by return postcard, calling a phone number or using a web portal).

After the launch of Canterbury Community Power, any new customers starting service within the Town will be given a similar opt-out notice and will be transferred onto Community Power default service provided by the program, unless they choose to take energy service from their electric distribution utility or a Competitive Electric Power Supplier.

All customers on Canterbury Community Power default service will remain free to switch back to their electric distribution utility or to take energy service from a Competitive Electric Power Supplier.

### **B. CUSTOMER ACCOUNTS AND ELECTRICITY USAGE ESTIMATES**

The tables below show the total number and annual electricity usage of customers within Canterbury’s territory who would initially receive either “opt-out” or “opt-in” notifications:

	<b>Unitil Default Supply Customers</b> (Eligible for Opt-Out Notifications & Automatic Enrollment)		<b>Competitive Supply Customers</b> (Eligible for Opt-In Notifications & Voluntary Enrollment)		<b>Total Customers</b> (Combined Unitil Default & Competitive Supply Customers)	
	<b>Customer Accounts</b>	<b>Annual Usage (MWh)</b>	<b>Customer Accounts</b>	<b>Annual Usage (MWh)</b>	<b>Customer Accounts</b>	<b>Annual Usage (MWh)</b>
Municipal	4	0.25	4	.25	8	0.5
Residential	517	3961	45	410	562	4371
Comm-Indus	41	1174	15	216	56	1390
St Lighting-muni	31	28	0	0	31	28
St Lighting-res	10	32	1	0.9	11	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>5195</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>5823</b>

Aggregated data shown was provided by Unitil for the 12 months ending October 31, 2022.

	<b>Eversource Default Supply Customers</b> (Eligible for Opt-Out Notifications & Automatic Enrollment)		<b>Competitive Supply Customers</b> (Eligible for Opt-In Notifications & Voluntary Enrollment)		<b>Total Customers</b> (Combined Eversource Default & Competitive Supply Customers)	
	<b>Customer Accounts</b>	<b>Annual Usage (MWh)</b>	<b>Customer Accounts</b>	<b>Annual Usage (MWh)</b>	<b>Customer Accounts</b>	<b>Annual Usage (MWh)</b>
Residential	443	3192	117	828	560	4020
<b>Total</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>3192</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>828</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>4020</b>

Aggregated data shown was provided by Eversource for the 12 months ending November, 2022. This data likely includes non-Residential as well as Residential customer accounts and usage figures (e.g., "Commercial").

	<b>NHEC Default Supply Customers</b> (Eligible for Opt-In Notifications & Voluntary Enrollment)		<b>Competitive Supply Customers</b> (Eligible for Opt-In Notifications & Voluntary Enrollment)		<b>Total Customers</b> (Combined NHEC Default & Competitive Supply Customers)	
	<b>Customer Accounts</b>	<b>Annual Usage (MWh)</b>	<b>Customer Accounts</b>	<b>Annual Usage (MWh)</b>	<b>Customer Accounts</b>	<b>Annual Usage (MWh)</b>
Residential	68	564	N/A	N/A	68	564
General (Commercial)	6	118	1	N/A	7	138
<b>Total 2-yr average</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>701</b>

Aggregated data shown was provided by NHEC for the 24 months ending November, 2022.

	<b>Total Utility Default Supply Customers</b> (Eligible for Opt-Out Notifications & Automatic Enrollment)		<b>Total Competitive Supply Customers</b> (Eligible for Opt-In Notifications & Voluntary Enrollment)		<b>Total Canterbury Customers</b> (Combined Utility Default & Competitive Supply Customers)	
	<b>Customer Accounts</b>	<b>Annual Usage (MWh)</b>	<b>Customer Accounts</b>	<b>Annual Usage (MWh)</b>	<b>Customer Accounts</b>	<b>Annual Usage (MWh)</b>
Municipal	4	0.25	4	.25	8	0.5
Residential	1028	7717	162	1238	1190	8955
Comm-Indus	47	1292	16	216	63	1528
St Lighting-muni	31	28	0	0	31	28
St Lighting-res	10	32	1	0.9	11	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>1120</b>	<b>9069</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>1455</b>	<b>1303</b>	<b>10544</b>

Aggregated data shown was provided by Unitil, Eversource and NHEC for the 12 months ending November 30, 2022. <sup>1</sup>

### **III. COMMUNITY POWER COALITION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Canterbury is a member of the [Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire](#) (“the Coalition”), a joint powers agency authorized under RSA 53-A (“*Agreements Between Governments: Joint Exercise of Powers*”) that will operate on a not-for-profit basis. The Coalition provides comprehensive services for authorizing, launching and operating Community Power programs.

The Coalition was created so that towns, cities, and counties (its “members”) across New Hampshire could:

1. Access the resources and support required to streamline the process of establishing an Electric Aggregation Committee, drafting an Electric Aggregation Plan and approving a new Community Power program.
2. Jointly solicit and contract for third-party services and staff support to launch and operate Community Power programs, without requiring any upfront costs or imposing any financial liabilities on participating communities.
3. Participate in joint power solicitations and local project development opportunities.
4. Share knowledge and collaborate regionally on clean energy and resilient infrastructure development at the community level throughout the state.
5. Speak with one voice at the Legislature and Public Utilities Commission on public advocacy issues related to energy and Community Power.

The Coalition’s joint powers agency governance model and competitive business model have been designed in accordance with energy industry best practices to ensure that participating Community Power programs benefit from transparent governance and high-quality services. The Coalition ensures all New Hampshire communities are able to take full advantage of their

local control authorities under RSA 53-E and achieve the full scope of their local energy policy goals.

The Coalition is governed “for communities, by communities” under a voluntary and flexible membership structure. The Coalition will provide competitive electricity service on a statewide basis, and will strengthen the ability of communities to coordinate effectively on public advocacy issues.



For more information about Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire, see [Attachment 2](#).

## **IV. CANTERBURY’S ELECTRIC AGGREGATION PLAN**

### **A. PURPOSE OF THIS ELECTRIC AGGREGATION PLAN**

The Canterbury Community Power Committee was tasked by the Select Board to prepare this Electric Aggregation Plan, which sets forth Canterbury’s policy goals for our Community Power program, summarizes program governance and implementation processes, and commits Canterbury Community Power to comply with applicable statutes and regulations in terms of:

- Providing universal access, reliability, and equitable treatment of all classes of customers subject to any differences arising from varying opportunities, tariffs, and arrangements between different electric distribution utilities in their respective franchise territories; and
- Meeting, at a minimum, the basic environmental and service standards established by the Public Utilities Commission and other applicable agencies and laws and rules concerning the provision of service under Community Power.

This plan does not otherwise commit Canterbury to any defined course of action, including participation in the Coalition for the purposes of launching the program, and does not impose any financial commitment on the Town.



The Select Board retains the power to contract for all required program services and electricity supplies, to set rates, and to pursue related projects independently of the Coalition.

## **B. APPROVAL PROCESS FOR CANTERBURY COMMUNITY POWER**

This Electric Aggregation Plan was developed by the CCPC with due input from the public, as required under RSA 53-E. Public hearings were held on December 15, 2022 and January 12, 2023. Refer to [Attachment 3](#) for additional information on the Committee's formation and its work.

The CCPC has determined that this Electric Aggregation Plan satisfies applicable statutory requirements and is in the best, long-term interest of the Town and its residents, businesses, and other ratepayers.

The Select Board may now submit this Plan for consideration by Town Meeting. Adoption of this Plan by the Town Meeting, by majority approval of those present and voting, establishes Canterbury Community Power as an approved "municipal aggregation" with statutory authorities defined under RSA 53-E:3 (to be exercised with due oversight and local governance, as described herein), and authorizes the Select Board to arrange and contract for the necessary professional services and power supplies to launch Canterbury Community Power.

## **C. IMPLEMENTATION FOR THE COALITION & CANTERBURY COMMUNITY POWER**

On September 19, 2022 the Canterbury Select Board voted unanimously to enter into the Coalition's Joint Powers Agreement. The Coalition Board of Directors voted to welcome Canterbury as a member on October 20, 2022.

The Coalition's Joint Powers Agreement includes the Articles of Agreement and Bylaws of the nonprofit corporation organized as the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire. It establishes the general purpose, authorities, structure, Board of Directors, committees, cost-sharing principles, liability protections, and other aspects of the organization.

This plan assumes, but does not require, that the Town will participate fully in the Coalition for the purposes of implementing and operating Canterbury Community Power.

The Select Board has appointed a primary and an alternate representative of Canterbury Community Power to serve on the Coalition's Board of Directors and as Member representatives to Annual meetings and certain votes. The Town's representatives provide oversight to the Coalition's operations and finances and may participate on Committees of the Coalition.

Canterbury and all other members will be directly represented on the Coalition's Board until more than twenty-one (21) members join (achieved in October, 2022), at which point directors will be elected by vote of the Members' representatives at annual meetings beginning in April, 2023 (with a Board size of between 11 and 21 representatives, at the Members' direction).

To exercise more regular oversight over specific aspects of the joint powers agency, the Coalition will have six standing committees: Executive, Finance, Audit, Regulatory and Legislative Affairs, Risk Management, and Governance. The Board may also establish ad-hoc

committees, and each direct project that members choose to pursue in the future will be overseen by a committee specific to that project.

All meetings of the Coalition will comply with New Hampshire's Right-to-Know Law (RSA 91-A), the purpose of which is to *"ensure both the greatest possible public access to the actions, discussions and records of all public bodies, and their accountability to the people"*, based on the recognition that *"openness in the conduct of public business is essential to a democratic society."*

### **1. Development of Member Cost Sharing Agreement and Services**

Under the terms of New Hampshire's Community Power law ([RSA 53-E](#)):

- Community Power programs must be self-funded, with ongoing costs paid for using the revenues generated by participating customers.
- Municipalities are only allowed to incur incidental costs associated with implementing Community Power programs, such as the costs necessary to comply with the Community Power law, up to the time that the program starts to produce revenue from participating customers. Incidental costs should not include any costs that are more properly accounted for as capitalized or operating costs of the Canterbury Community Power program.

Membership in the Coalition, and the implementation of Canterbury Community Power, will not require any upfront cost for the Town other than such incidental expenses (e.g., the staff time, counsel review of agreements, and other expenses required to comply with the Community Power law before the program starts to generate revenue).

To provide the services, credit support and electricity supply required to launch and operate Canterbury Community Power:

- The Coalition will administer competitive solicitations on behalf of all participating Community Power programs to contract with qualified vendors and credit-worthy suppliers.
- Vendors are expected to fund and self-manage the upfront cost of launching Community Power programs, under at-risk and performance-based contract structures with payments contingent upon successful launch.
- Program implementation costs for Canterbury, along with ongoing operational and power procurement expenses, will be factored into the customer rates and be recovered from the revenues received from participating customers after the launch of Canterbury Community Power.

The Coalition's Joint Powers Agreement provides certain requirements regarding how costs will be tracked and shared across participating Community Power programs, which will guide the development of the Coalition cost-sharing agreement:

- Costs will be tracked in three distinct categories: member services, direct project costs, and general and administrative costs (overhead costs not associated with member service or any specific project);
- Member cost-sharing agreements will be the same in all material respects: general and administrative costs will be allocated based on each Community Power program's share of

total electricity usage each year, while each member will choose and separately pay for the costs of specific services and projects (under terms that reflect a fair allocation across all the members that chose the same services and projects); and

- The debts, liabilities and obligations of the Coalition, and of other participating Community Power programs, will be non-recourse to Canterbury (unless expressly agreed to by the Select Board under Canterbury’s Cost Sharing Agreement or a Project Contract).

To proceed with launching and operating Canterbury Community Power through the Coalition:

- The Select Board would review and approve execution of the Coalition’s Cost Sharing Agreement and Member Services Contract, along with the Data Security and Privacy Policy and the Energy Portfolio Risk Management, Retail Rates, and Financial Reserves policies approved by the Coalition’s Board of Directors.
- The Coalition would provide the services and credit support necessary to launch and operate Canterbury Community Power (along with the programs of other municipalities across the state) and would provide all-requirements electricity to customers participating in the programs.
  - Confidential customer data would be handled in accordance with the Data Security and Privacy Policy.
  - Power procurement and energy portfolio risk management, rate setting, and the accrual of financial reserves for the program would be carried out in accordance with the Coalition’s Energy Portfolio Risk Management, Retail Rates, and Financial Reserves policies.
  - The Coalition would collect revenues from program customers on the Town’s behalf and would recover expenses incurred on behalf of Canterbury Community Power in accordance with the Cost Sharing Agreement.

Governance of the power agency would be carried out pursuant to the Coalition’s Joint Powers Agreement. The Board of Directors and committees of Member Representatives — the Executive Committee, Finance Committee, Risk Management Committee, Member Operations and Engagement Committee, Regulatory and Legislative Affairs Committee, etc. — would continue to meet regularly and carry out their responsibilities to provide oversight and direction, supported by a qualified CEO and staff experts hired to provide day-to-day oversight and management of the agency’s service providers, operations, planning, and program development activities.

The Coalition intends to contract for all the services required to launch and operate member Community Power programs, which is expected to enable access to advanced services and expertise at least cost for Canterbury Community Power. However, note that:

- The Town will be under no obligation to rely on the services provided through the Coalition until the Select Board executes the Coalition’s cost-sharing agreement and chooses which services will be provided through the Coalition.
- At that time, the Select Board may decide to rely on the Coalition for all or a subset of the services required to launch and operate Canterbury Community Power.

- Alternatively, the Select Board could decide to withdraw from the Coalition entirely, prior to the point at which power procurement is authorized on behalf of Canterbury Community Power, and launch Canterbury Community Power independently (e.g., using the services of a Competitive Electric Power Supplier or an independent “broker”), without any cost or continuing financial obligations to the Coalition.
- Lastly, after Canterbury Community Power launches, the Town could still decide to procure certain services independently or to withdraw from the Coalition at a future date, subject to the terms, conditions and any continuing obligations specified in the cost-sharing agreement approved by the Select Board.

Decisions made by the Select Board regarding how best to implement and operate Canterbury Community Power, including the execution of the Coalition cost-sharing agreement and selection of services provided through the Coalition, will be made at duly noticed public meetings.

## ***2. Energy Portfolio Risk Management, Rates & Reserve Policies***

Canterbury Community Power’s ability to maintain competitive rates, as market prices and the electric distribution utilities’ default energy service rates change over time, is a primary goal for the program. Competitive rates will significantly reduce the risk that customers opt-out of Canterbury Community Power and allow the program to achieve our medium to long-term goals.

To that end, working with the other members of the Coalition, the Select Board on behalf of Canterbury Community Power will adopt Coalition-wide “Energy Portfolio Risk Management, Retail Rates, and Financial Reserve” policies (sometimes referred to hereinafter as the “3 R’s” policies). The purpose of these policies is to:

- Ensure that Canterbury Community Power allocates customer revenues in ways that balance our community’s goals and objectives over the short-to-long term; and
- Define how the Coalition will conduct energy risk management, procurement and market operations on behalf of Canterbury Community Power (so that the agency remains in compliance with our adopted policies).

Canterbury Community Power’s power procurement, budgeting and rate-setting will be carried out in accordance with the Coalition’s “3 R’s” policies adopted by the Select Board.

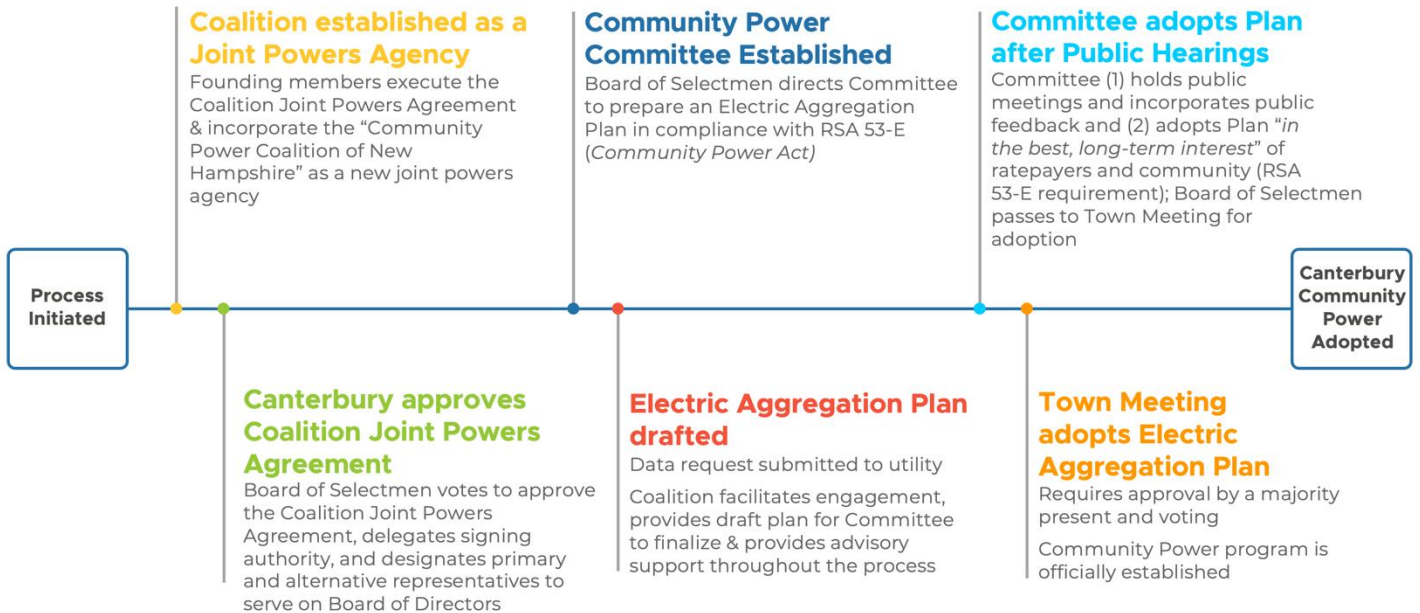
### **D. SUBMISSION OF ELECTRIC AGGREGATION PLAN TO NHPUC**

Canterbury will submit this final Electric Aggregation Plan to the Public Utilities Commission for review and approval as per RSA 53-E:7, II.

### **E. MILESTONE CHARTS FOR ADOPTION, APPROVALS AND LAUNCH**

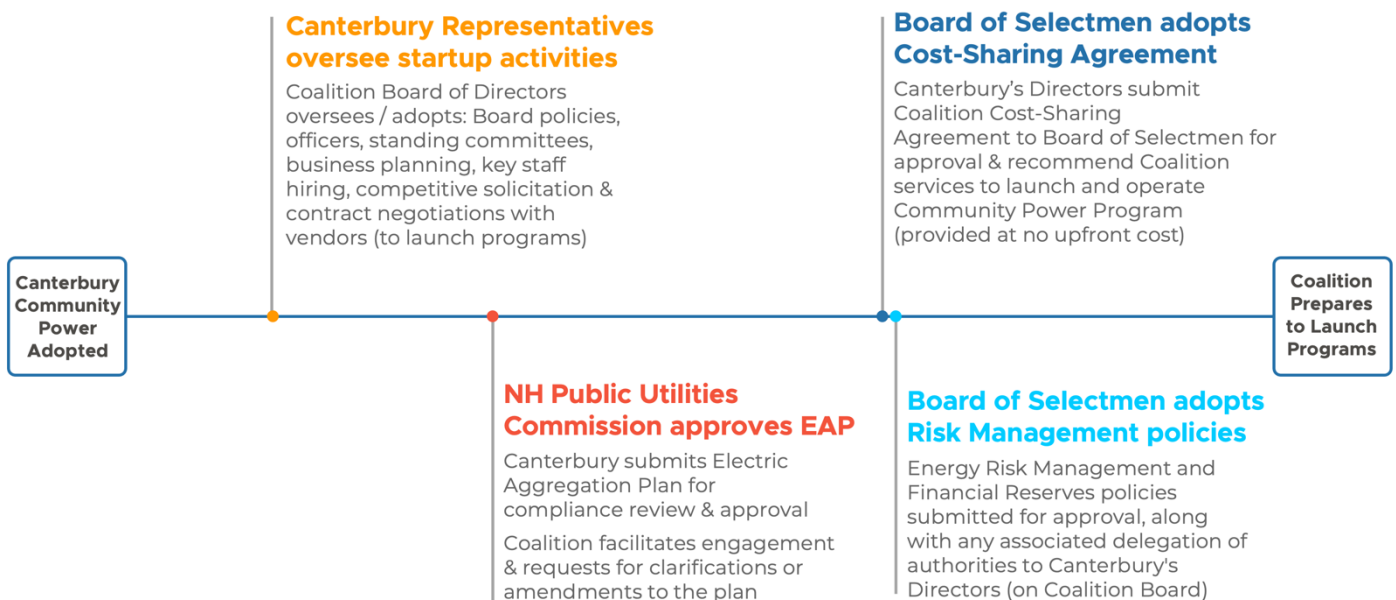
The milestone charts below show the anticipated adoption, approvals and launch processes for Canterbury Community Power and the Coalition power agency, as described in the sections above.

### Adoption Process for Coalition Agency and Canterbury Community Power



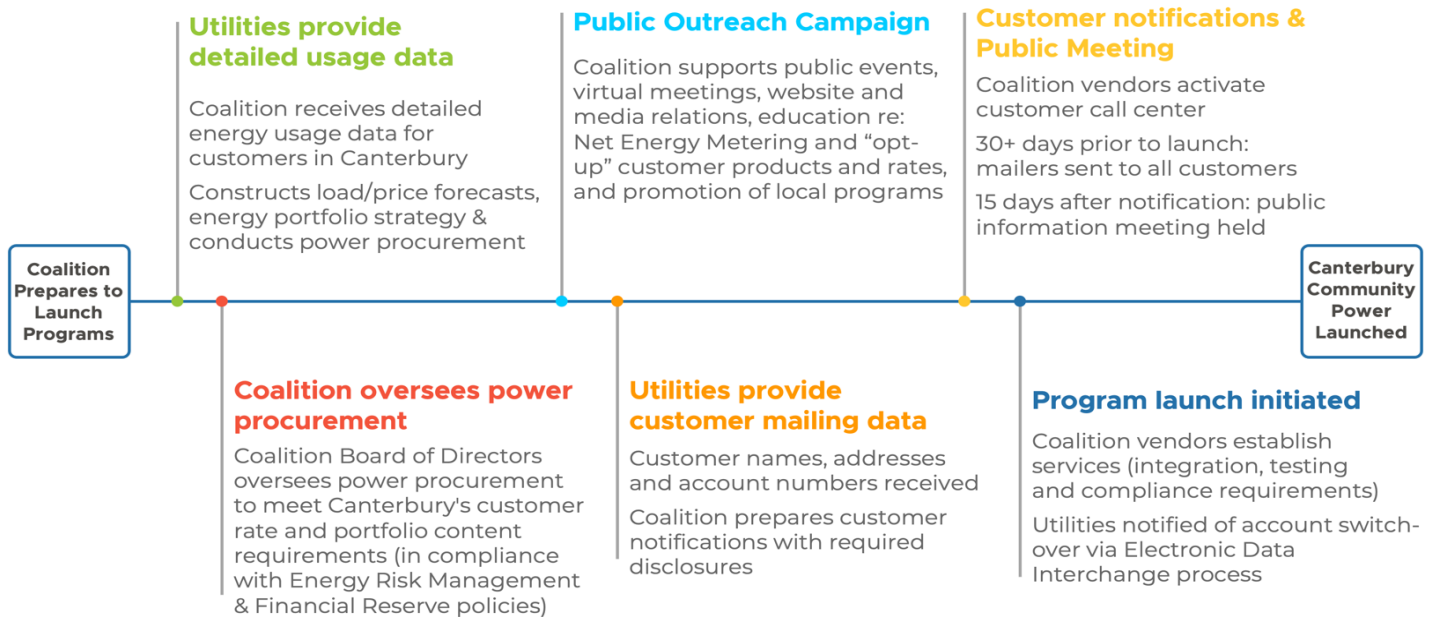
### PUC Approval, and Select Board Approval of Cost-Sharing and "3 R's" Policies

The milestones chart below summarizes Coalition startup activities, PUC approval, and Select Board adoption of the Cost-Sharing Agreement and "3 R's" policies:



## Canterbury Community Power Launch Process

The milestones chart below summarizes the process by which the Coalition will structure and conduct data collection, forecasting, power procurement solicitations and rate setting exercises — in compliance with the its “3 R’s” policies adopted by the Town, and with oversight provided by Canterbury’s representatives on the Coalition’s Board of Directors — and the local outreach, customer notification mailings and public meeting process that culminates in the launch of Canterbury Community Power:



## **V. CANTERBURY’S GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND REQUIREMENTS**

Canterbury Community Power affords the Town the capacity and flexibility to realize and build on our policies pertaining to energy and economic development.

Our policy goals will need to be pursued through a combination of direct program activities and informed public advocacy at the Legislature and Public Utilities Commission. This will require enhanced coordination with other communities as well as advanced operational services, dedicated expertise, innovation, and sustained initiative carried out over a period of multiple years.

Simultaneously, maintaining competitive rates compared to the electric distribution utilities’ default service rates — as market prices, energy technologies and policies change over time — will require nimble decision-making and the ability to evolve business operations in response to changing market conditions to actively manage risk, minimize costs and maximize the creation of customer value.

The structure of the Coalition — the combination of the joint powers agency’s community governance model, competitive business model and coordinated approach to engaging in public advocacy — has been designed to enable and streamline these activities for Canterbury Community Power at an advantageous, cost-effective economy-of-scale.

Participation in the Coalition is therefore expected to strengthen the capacity and financial performance of Canterbury Community Power, such that the program can operate continuously as a self-supporting, competitive enterprise for the foreseeable future, and will therefore be able to work towards achieving the full scope of our policy goals and objectives over the long-term.

### **A. CANTERBURY’S POLICY GOALS**

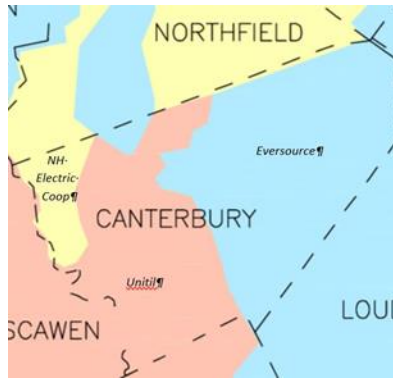
Canterbury’s policy goals relating to energy and economic development reflect, in part, its historical development as an early farming and later bedroom community with broad similarities to many other New Hampshire towns, and in part, specific local developments that set it apart from other New Hampshire towns.

We share with many New Hampshire towns a history of wide-spread changes in land use and energy technology in the centuries since Europeans arrived in New England:

- 1600s: Forest land cover, an indigenous hunter-gatherer economy with pockets of seasonal Native American and more permanent European agricultural settlement, and an energy economy based largely on human power.
- 1700s: Growth of small European farming communities inland from the Atlantic coast, and the increasing use of horsepower to do heavy work.
- 1800s: Rise of rural towns based on a mix of farming, home industries, and small mills using water power to drive scattered early industrial development.
- 1900s: Electric power and combustion-engine technology, both based on the burning of fossil fuels, drive industrialization and a consumer economy.
- 2000s: Growing awareness of climate change and over-reliance on fossil fuels spurs increasing interest in the development of “no-fuel-cost” renewable energy from sun, wind, and water.

But Canterbury has also developed in some unusual and even unique ways, based on local factors. Early local industrialization began with the Canterbury Shakers, who built mills powered by water from a chain of ponds they created along the “long ditch” in East Canterbury, starting in the 1840s. The Shakers were also early adopters of electricity, produced by the same chain of ponds, to light and heat the buildings in their several “families” situated along Shaker Road.

Unlike most New Hampshire towns, for historical reasons Canterbury is now served by not one but three electric utility companies (Unitil in the west, Eversource in the east, and a small group of New Hampshire Electric Co-op customers in the northwest corner).



Canterbury and its residents have been leaders in energy conservation and renewable energy for decades. In the 1980s and 1990s, several well-known local contractors focused their construction work on building energy efficient “passive solar” homes in town. Canterbury adopted special property tax policies for properties with solar arrays in 1984 before the state officially authorized towns to adopt such a policy. Canterbury is also the site of the first net-metered small power generation facility in New Hampshire – a wind tower at the Meeh-McCulloch farm on the site of the former Shaker “North Family.”

In 2010, Canterbury used Federal funds to install a ground-mounted solar array on town-owned land near the Town offices, to offset a portion of the energy load from municipal buildings. And in 2018, Canterbury established a Town Energy Committee. Its overall mission, approved by the Select Board in July of that year, was:

“To encourage and facilitate energy conservation, energy efficient practices, and the use of sustainable energy in the Town of Canterbury, including public buildings and properties, businesses, and resident homes.” (For the complete 2018 Mission Statement, see [Attachment 4](#), Part 1, at p. xvi.)

The Energy Committee’s effectiveness and the Town’s support led to numerous well attended educational programs on home energy conservation, technical assistance to those who qualify, an electric car show, and a “Solarize Canterbury” campaign that resulted in 41 new or expanded PV solar installations supplying electric power to private homes and buildings at reduced cost, thereby doubling the solar energy generated in town. The Energy Committee continues its efforts to reduce energy consumption at the Municipal Building (Safety Complex) and generate additional solar energy for Town buildings.

The Energy Committee has also recognized the potential of Community Power to lower electric rates and increase the renewable energy options available to electric utility customers in town. In the fall of 2022, the Energy Committee asked the Select Board to join the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire and create an “electric aggregation committee,” to be known as the “Canterbury Community Power Committee,” to explore the option of Community Power. The Select Board voted to join the Coalition in September, and created the Canterbury Community Power Committee in October.



## ***1. MASTER PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES***

Despite its energy consciousness, Canterbury did not include energy goals in the latest update of its Master Plan in 2010. However, Master Plan drafting is in process, and Energy will be part of the final 2024 edition of Canterbury's "Plan for Tomorrow." Currently in draft form, potential energy goal inserts for the Master Plan are appended in [Attachment 4](#), part 2, at p. xvi.

## ***2. CANTERBURY COMMUNITY POWER GOALS AND OBJECTIVES***

To achieve our policy goals, Canterbury Community Power will be guided by the following objectives:

- A. **Lower Rates:** provide residential default rates lower than those offered by Eversource and Unitil (though not lower than NHEC's rates, which have historically been lower than those of the investor-owned New Hampshire electric utilities regulated by the Public Utilities Commission);
- B. **Expanded Choices for Renewable Energy and Other Innovations:** offer optional products, such as supply options with higher and lower levels of renewable energy and time-varying rates that enable the intelligent use of customer energy technologies to reduce energy expenditures and carbon emissions on a voluntary basis;
- C. **Fiscal Stability & Financial Reserves:** maintain a reserve fund to ensure that the program remains able to offer competitive rates as market prices fluctuate over time;
- D. **Consumer Protections:** ensure that the contracts entered into on behalf of customers are fair and represent the interests of Canterbury and its residents;
- E. **Public Advocacy:** represent the interests of Canterbury and the program's customers at the Legislature, Public Utilities Commission and other relevant agencies on matters pertaining to Community Power and towards creating a more modern electric grid;
- F. **Cleaner, Local Power:** encourage the development of cost-effective projects to supply an affordable energy portfolio that prioritizes the use of in-state and local renewable energy;
- G. **Community Resilience:** support local contractor training and education programs to lower barriers to the installation of new clean energy technologies, and support projects such as back-up power supplies, efficient electric vehicle charging networks and community microgrids on critical facilities;
- H. **Regional Collaborations:** collaborate with municipalities, other Community Power programs and government agencies to jointly develop cost-effective local renewable generation and storage projects, electric vehicle transit fleets (such as school buses) and charging corridors, and other clean energy infrastructure developments;
- I. **Risk and Liability:** protect the Town of Canterbury against any risks or liabilities arising as a result of Community Power programs in Canterbury, beyond those explicitly accepted by the Select Board as reasonable in connection with a specific Community Power program (e.g., energy procurement) or project (e.g. a renewable generation project developed by the Town).

Through strategies and initiatives like these, enabled by the scope and scale of service provided through the Coalition, Canterbury Community Power intends to:

- Reduce fossil fuel consumption overall while enhancing the reliability of our electricity grid;
- Create savings and new value for customers; and
- Support the vitality and growth of local businesses.

These objectives are essential to our continued success as a vital, sustainable community.

## **B. NEAR-TERM OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

While many of the broader benefits Canterbury Community Power intends to create for customers and the Town will be developed over time, the program’s immediate objective is to offer lower default energy rates compared to the investor-owned electric distribution utilities while accruing a reserve fund sufficient to ensure long-term financial stability. In addition, it intends to offer voluntary products that retail customers may opt-up to receive as well as Net Energy Metering supply rates that allow customer-generators to participate in the program.

Canterbury Community Power will need to balance customer rate levels, renewable power content and the accrual of program reserves to meet these objectives.

### **A. UTILITY DEFAULT SERVICE AND NET ENERGY METERING RATES**

Compensation to customer-generators under Net Energy Metering generation rates, the timing of the program’s rate setting decisions and, to a certain degree, the procurement of electricity will need to take into account the electric distribution utilities’ tariffs, processes and timing in regard to these activities. Refer to [Attachment 1](#) for additional documentation and discussion of these factors.

### **B. CUSTOMER ENERGY RATES AND PRODUCTS**

The table below provides an illustrative example of a default service product and optional rates that could be offered to customers:

	<b>Granite Basic</b>	<b>Granite Plus</b>	<b>Clean 50</b>	<b>Clean 100</b>
<b>Price</b>	Below default utility rates	Meet or beat default utility rate at launch	Higher or competitive with default utility rate	Exceeds default utility rate
<b>Renewable Content</b>	Meets Renewable Portfolio Standard	5-10% above Renewable Portfolio Standard	~50% Renewable	100% Renewable

*(The Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) is a New Hampshire state law setting a minimum requirement for renewable energy to be provided to customers. RPS requirement for 2023 is 23.4%)*

The products that Canterbury Community Power initially offers to customers, and the rates charged for each product, will be refined and finalized by the Coalition and chosen by the Select Board in advance of program launch.

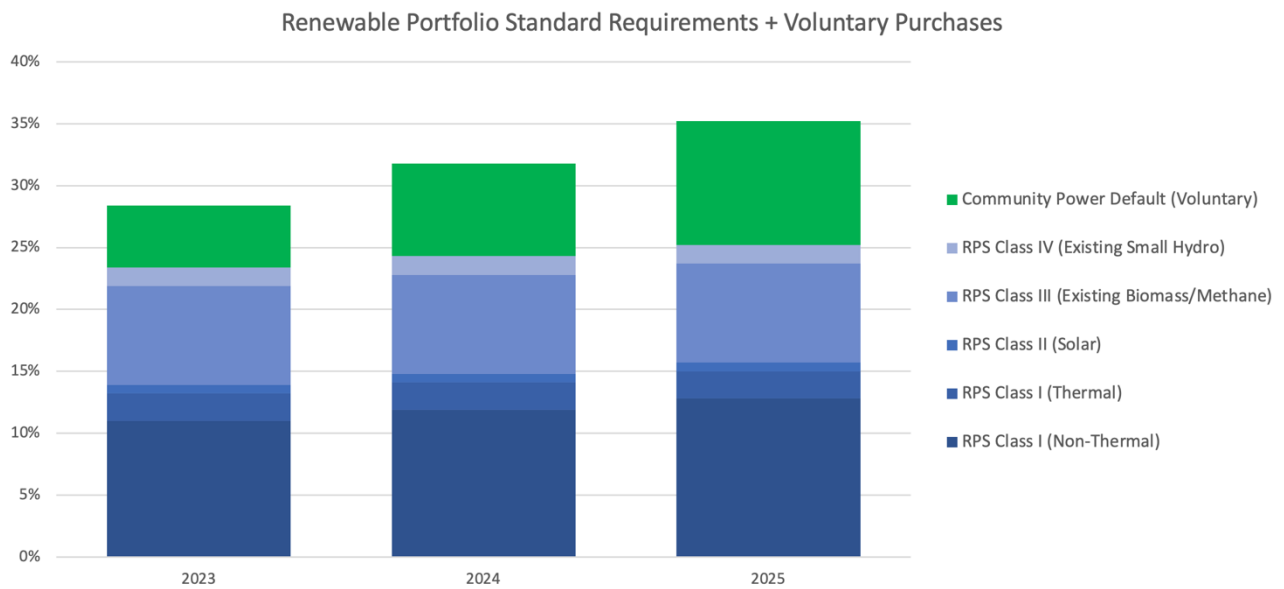
**C. RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD REQUIREMENTS**

New Hampshire’s Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) requires all electricity suppliers to obtain Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) for four distinct “classes” of renewables, each distinguishing between different technologies and dependent upon the year that the generators came online.

For 2023, the electric distribution utilities and other electricity suppliers are required to include 23.4% renewable energy in their energy supply. This minimum compliance requirement will increase incrementally to 25.2% by 2025 and remain fixed thereafter, absent an increase in the RPS.

Canterbury Community Power will seek to procure and offer (as “opt-up” alternatives in addition to basic default energy service) voluntary renewables in excess of the RPS minimum requirements from “Class I” resources (as defined at <https://www.cpcnh.org/renewable-portfolio-standard>). Additionally, the program could prioritize including as much renewable energy sourced from generating resources located in New Hampshire and New England as possible.

The chart below shows the different classes and quantities of renewable power required under the RPS between 2023 and 2025, along with, for the sake of illustration, Canterbury Community Power’s additional voluntary purchases (assuming that the default product from the table in the preceding section meets the minimum RPS requirement for each year):



## **VI. ELECTRIC AGGREGATION PLAN STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS**

The following requirements for this Electric Aggregation Plan, in compliance with RSA 53-E:6, are addressed below:

- A. Organizational structure of the program;
- B. Methods of entering into and terminating agreements;
- C. Operation and funding;
- D. Rate setting, costs, and customer enrollment process;
- E. Rights and responsibilities of program participants;
- F. Net metering and group net metering policies;
- G. Ensuring discounts for Electric Assistance Program participants; and,
- H. Termination of program.

### **A. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAM**

Upon approval of this plan, Canterbury Community Power will be authorized to provide electricity and other related services to participating residents, businesses, and other customers in the Town.

The Select Board will oversee the program and has overall governance authority. Decisions regarding Canterbury Community Power, such as updating program goals, adoption of Energy Portfolio Risk Management, Retail Rates, and Financial Reserve policies (to govern the program's power procurement and rate setting decisions), will be made at duly noticed public meetings and with advisory support from the CCPC.

The Select Board has appointed a primary and alternate representative to participate in the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire and to serve on the agency's Board of Directors and may delegate certain decision-making authorities to them to carry out their responsibilities at the Select Board's direction.

In general, Canterbury's representatives will be expected to help oversee the start-up and operation of the agency, provide input regarding the Coalition's public advocacy on matters of policy and regulation, provide direction to the Coalition's staff and vendors as the agency's operations and customer services evolve over time, and report back regularly regarding the performance of Canterbury Community Power and on any matter that warrants attention or requires action by the Select Board.

Additionally, the Select Board may direct the CCPC to continue to hold meetings for the purpose of providing community input and advisory support regarding the program.

### **B. METHODS OF ENTERING INTO AND TERMINATING AGREEMENTS**

This Electric Aggregation Plan authorizes the Select Board to negotiate, enter into, modify, enforce, and terminate agreements as necessary for the implementation and operation of Canterbury Community Power.

### **C. OPERATION AND FUNDING**

Canterbury Community Power will contract with qualified vendors and credit-worthy suppliers to provide the services, credit support, and electricity required to launch and operate the program.

This plan assumes, but does not require, Canterbury to participate fully in the Coalition and thereby contract for operational services jointly with other participating Community Power programs.

The Coalition's third-party contractors will be expected to fund the upfront cost of implementing Canterbury Community Power, the expense of which will be amortized and recovered in the program's rates and charges to participating customers. The program may also seek opportunities to apply for grant funding, either independently or through the Coalition.

Services provided by third-party entities required to launch and operate the program may include portfolio risk management advisory services, wholesale Load Serving Entity (LSE) services, financial services, electronic data interchange (EDI) services with the utility, and customer notification, data management, billing, and relationship management (e.g., call center, website, etc.) services. Additional information on how Canterbury Community Power will implement Load Serving Entity (LSE) services is found in [Attachment 5](#),

#### *How Load Serving Entity Services will be Implemented.*

Additional support services such as management and planning, budgeting and rate setting, local project development support, regulatory compliance, and legislative and regulatory engagement services (on matters that could impact the program and participating customers) will be addressed through a combination of staff support and third-party services.

Canterbury Community Power will provide "all-requirements" electricity supply for its customers, inclusive of all of the electrical energy, capacity, reserves, ancillary services, transmission services (to the extent not provided through the electric distribution utilities), transmission and distribution losses, congestion management, and other such services or products necessary to provide firm power supply to participants and meet the requirements of New Hampshire's Renewable Portfolio Standard. (Refer to <https://www.cpcnh.org/renewable-portfolio-standard> for details regarding the requirements of the Renewable Portfolio Standard statute, RSA 362-F.)

If a single supplier is relied upon to provide all-requirements electricity on behalf of Canterbury Community Power, then (1) the supply contract will be executed or guaranteed by entities that possess at least a BBB- or equivalent investment-grade rating issued by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization (NRSRO), and (2) the supplier will be required to use proper standards of management and operations, maintain sufficient insurance, and meet appropriate performance requirements for the duration of the supply contract. Alternatively, if a portfolio of contracts with multiple entities is structured to diversify counterparty credit risk exposure, and actively managed to provide for all-requirements electricity on behalf of Canterbury Community Power, then counterparty credit requirements and monitoring, hedging transaction authorities, residual ISO-NE market exposure limits, and reporting requirements will be carried

out in accordance with the Energy Portfolio Risk Management, Retail Rates, and Financial Reserves policies established prior to commencing procurement and implementing the program.

Additionally, RSA 53-E provides Community Power programs with authorities pertaining to meter ownership, meter reading, billing, and other related services. These authorities provide Canterbury Community Power with the practical ability to help customers adopt and use innovative technologies (for example, building management systems, smart thermostats, backup battery storage systems, controllable electric vehicle chargers, etc.) in ways that save money, enhance grid resiliency, and decarbonize our power supply.

However, the implementation of these authorities is expected to take some time, as it requires action by the Public Utilities Commission to adopt enabling rules and coordination with the electric distribution utilities to adapt existing meter and billing system processes.

## **D. RATE SETTING, COSTS, ENROLLMENT PROCESS, AND OPTIONS**

Customers who choose not to participate in Canterbury Community Power shall not be responsible for any costs associated with the program, apart from incidental costs incurred by the Town prior to the point at which the program starts producing revenue from participating customers (for example, contract review by legal counsel, but not any operational or capitalized costs of the program).

### ***1. RATE SETTING AND COSTS***

***As noted in earlier sections, Canterbury Community Power will only launch if it is able to offer residential default rates that are initially lower than those offered by the investor-owned electric distribution utilities (Unitil and Eversource);*** thereafter, the program will strive to maintain competitive rates for all default service customers on an overall annual basis, as well as customers who opt-in or opt-up to receive optional retail products, while working to achieve the program's goals (as set forth in this Electric Aggregation Plan and modified from time to time at the direction of the Select Board).

The Select Board will adopt Energy Risk Management, Retail Rates, and Financial Reserve policies to govern the program's power procurement and rate-setting decisions. Rates will be set at a level such that revenues from participating customers are projected to meet or exceed the ongoing operating and capital costs of the program.

To ensure the financial stability of Canterbury Community Power, a portion of revenues will be deposited in a financial reserve account. In general, the fund will be restricted for uses such as:

- **In the near-term**, maintain competitive customer rates in the context of price fluctuations in the electricity market and other factors;
- **In the medium term**, as collateral for power purchase agreements (including for the development of new renewable and battery storage projects), and for additional credit enhancements and purposes that lower the program's cost of service; and
- **Over the long term**, reserve funds allocated to Canterbury may also be used to directly fund

other program financial requirements, further lower Canterbury Community Power default energy rates, or augment the financing for development of new Canterbury-specific projects and programs in the later years of the program, subject to the Select Board's approval.

As required by law, the program will ensure the equitable treatment of all classes of customers, subject to any differences arising from varying opportunities, tariffs, and arrangements between different electric distribution utilities in their respective franchise territories.

In other words, customers will be treated the same based on their circumstances. For example, any customers that opt-in after declining the opportunity to participate during the initial enrollment period may be offered rates that reflect how market prices have changed in the intervening period.

Changes to the program's default service rates shall be set by the Select Board and publicly noticed at least 30 days in advance of any rate change.

## ***2. ENROLLMENT PROCESS AND OPTIONS***

Canterbury Community Power intends to launch on an opt-out basis, providing an alternative default service to utility-provided default service rates. After approval of this Electric Aggregation Plan and before the launch of Canterbury Community Power, all customers in the Town will be sent notifications regarding the program and offered the opportunity to participate:

- **Customers currently on default service provided by the investor-owned electric distribution utilities (Unitil and Eversource)** will be sent "opt-out" notifications — describing the program, its implications for the Town, the rights and responsibilities of customers, and program rates and charges — with instructions on how to decline participation, and thereafter be transferred to Canterbury Community Power if they do not opt-out of the program prior to launch.
- **Customers served by NHEC and/or already served by Competitive Electric Power Suppliers** will receive "opt-in" notifications describing the program and may request to opt-in to the program.

If the electric distribution utilities have not fully implemented Public Utilities Commission rules and procedures governing Community Power Aggregation service, certain groups of customers on default service provided by the utilities may need to be offered service on an opt-in basis, and/or offered service on an opt-out basis at a future date. For example, if the utilities are unable to reliably provide the data on customer-generators necessary to offer Net Energy Metering (NEM) rates and terms, then the program may initially choose to not enroll customer-generators on an opt-out basis, as doing so could risk negatively impacting NEM customer billing and crediting procedures.

Customers will be notified through a mailing, which will be posted not less than 30 days prior to the enrollment of any customers. All information will be repeated and posted on the Town's Canterbury Community Power Committee web-page. A public information meeting will be held within 15 days of the notification to answer program questions or provide clarification.

Optional products, such as increased renewable power content in excess of the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) requirements and other energy services, including time varying rates, may be offered on an opt-in basis.

After launch and in accordance with any applicable rules and procedures established by the Public Utilities Commission, new customers will be provided with the default service rates of the electric distribution utilities and Canterbury Community Power and default service customers of Unitil and Eversource (but not NHEC) will be transferred onto Canterbury Community Power's default service unless they choose to continue to be served by their electric distribution utility or a Competitive Electric Power Supplier.

Customers that request to opt-in to the program may do so at the discretion and subject to the terms of Canterbury Community Power.

Residents, businesses, and other electricity customers may opt-out of participating in Canterbury Community Power default service at any time, by submitting adequate notice in advance of the next regular meter reading by their electric distribution utility (in the same manner as if they were on utility provided default service or as approved by the Public Utilities Commission).

Customers that have opted-in to an optional product offered by Canterbury Community Power may switch back to their electric distribution utility or may take service from a Competitive Electric Power Supplier subject to any terms and conditions of the optional product.

## **E. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS**

All participants will have available to them the customer protection provisions of the law and regulations of New Hampshire, including the right to question billing and service quality practices.

Customers will be able to ask questions of and register complaints with the Town, the relevant electric distribution utility and the Public Utilities Commission.

Canterbury Community Power shall maintain the confidentiality of individual customer data in compliance with its obligations as a service provider under [RSA 363:38](#) (privacy policies for individual customer data; duties and responsibilities of service providers) and other applicable statutes and Public Utilities Commission rules. Individual customer data includes information that singly or in combination can identify that specific customer including the individual customers' name, service address, billing address, telephone number, account number, payment information, and electricity consumption data. Such individual customer data will not be subject to public disclosure under RSA 91-A (access to governmental records and meetings.) Suppliers and vendors for Canterbury Community Power will be contractually required to maintain the confidentiality of individual customer data pursuant to RSA 363:38, V(b). [Attachment 6](#), *Customer Data Protection Plan*, details the reasonable security procedures and



practices that the Town and Canterbury Community Power will employ to protect individual customer data from unauthorized access, use, destruction, modification, or disclosure.

Aggregate or anonymized data that does not compromise confidentiality of individual customers may be released at the discretion of Canterbury Community Power and as required by law or regulation.

Participants will continue to be responsible for paying their bills. Failure to do so may result in a customer being transferred from Canterbury Community Power back to the electric distribution utility (the regulated distribution utility and provider of last resort) for default energy service, payment collections and utility shut offs under procedures subject to oversight by the Public Utilities Commission.

#### **F. NET METERING AND GROUP NET METERING POLICIES**

Under the net metering process, customers who install renewable generation or qualifying combined heat and power systems up to 1,000 kilowatts in size (“customer-generators”) are eligible to receive credit or compensation for any electricity generated onsite in excess of their onsite usage.

Any surplus generation produced by these systems flows back into the distribution grid and offsets the electricity that would otherwise have to be purchased from the regional wholesale market to serve other customers.

Currently, customer-generators are charged their full retail rate for electricity supplied by the electric distribution utility and receive credits for electricity they export to the grid based on the electric distribution utility’s Net Energy Metering (NEM) tariffs.

Canterbury Community Power intends to provide new rates and terms that compensate participating customer-generators for the electricity supply component of their net metered surplus generation.

Customer-generators will continue to receive any non-energy-related components (e.g., transmission and distribution credits) directly from the electric distribution utility, as specified under the terms of their applicable net energy metering tariff.

For group net metering where the host customer-generator is on default service, to the extent Canterbury Community Power supply rates are lower than the electric distribution utility default service or if the host is located outside of Canterbury, it may be most advantageous for the host to remain a utility default service customer, while the other group members are free to switch to Canterbury Community Power for their supply and continue to receive on-bill credits for their participation in the group.

Canterbury Community Power’s exact terms, conditions, and rates for compensating and crediting different types of NEM customer-generators in the Town will be set at duly noticed public meetings and fully disclosed to all prospective NEM customers through the program’s enrollment notification process and thereafter.

Certain aspects of administering net energy metering require coordination between electric distribution utilities and Canterbury Community Power. The enabling services and strategies

that Canterbury Community Power may pursue, to benefit and encourage customers to adopt distributed generation, include but are not limited to:

- Dual-billing customer-generators separately for energy supply services;
- Offering time-varying rates and alternative credit mechanisms to compensate customers for surplus generation;
- Streamlining the establishment of new Group Net Metering and Low-Moderate Income Solar Project groups;
- Facilitating interval meter and Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) meter installations for customer-generators; and
- Engaging at the Legislature and Public Utilities Commission to advocate for upgrades and reforms to metering and billing infrastructure and business processes to enable Net Energy Metering and other innovative services to benefit customer-generators.

For additional details regarding these enabling services and strategies, refer to:

- [Attachment 1](#) which provides an in-depth discussion regarding operational and strategic opportunities to enhance net metering and group net metering through Canterbury Community Power.

#### **G. ENSURING DISCOUNTS FOR ELECTRIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS**

Income eligible households can qualify for discounts on their electric bills under the Electric Assistance Program. Canterbury Community Power will support income eligible customers who enroll in the Electric Assistance Program to receive their discount.

Electric Assistance Program discounts are funded by all ratepayers as part of the System Benefits Charge, which is charged to all customers and collected by the distribution utilities.

At present, the Public Utilities Commission and utilities only support provision of the discount to individual customers when the customer's electricity supply charges are billed through the distribution utility.

Canterbury Community Power consequently plans to rely on electric distribution utilities to bill all customer accounts enrolled in the Electric Assistance Program. This represents no change in the provision or funding of this program.

This arrangement may be revisited if, at some point in future, the Public Utilities Commission enables Community Power programs to provide Electric Assistance Program customers with their discount directly.

#### **H. TERMINATION OF THE PROGRAM**

There is no planned termination date for Canterbury Community Power.

Canterbury Community Power may be terminated by majority vote of the Select Board. If so terminated, Canterbury Community Power would cease operations after satisfying any obligations contractually entered into prior to termination, and after meeting any advance notification period or other applicable requirements in statute or regulation, at which point

participating customers would either be transferred to default service provided by the utility or to a Competitive Electric Power Supplier of their choosing.

Canterbury Community Power will provide as much advance notice as possible regarding the potential or planned termination of the program to participating customers, the Coalition, the Public Utilities Commission and the electric distribution utilities.

Upon termination, the balance of any funds accrued on behalf of Canterbury in the program's financial reserve fund and other accounts, if any, would be available for distribution or application as directed by the Select Board and in accordance with any applicable law and regulation.