

## Article 17: Community Choice Aggregation

### Why Pursue Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)?

Passage of this article would enable the Board of Selectmen to explore a CCA program which is a way for residents and small businesses of a town to pool their electricity demand and negotiate price and preferred fuel sources. This could offer substantial benefits to Wayland residents, such as:

- **Provide residents well vetted electricity options:** CCA programs can provide a well vetted alternative electricity supply choice with a greater percentage of renewable energy compared to the Eversource basic rate. The electricity is still distributed and billed through Eversource. Residents may opt out of the CCA program at any time. CCA programs are overseen by the Department of Energy Resources and Department of Public Utilities (DPU).
- **Address the climate emergency and support renewable energy:** As a state designated Green Community, Wayland has committed to reducing our greenhouse gas emissions. While we have taken significant steps to reduce our municipal fossil fuel use, the majority of our town's electricity consumption is residential. CCA could give residents the opportunity to purchase electricity supplied with a greater percentage of renewable energy than the 18% currently required for utilities by the state.
- **Good track record:** Over 150 municipalities have aggregation programs, including Boston, Newton, Brookline, Sudbury, Lincoln, and Natick. Many of these towns have negotiated CCA programs that offer a higher percentage of renewable energy at lower cost than the current Eversource basic service rate.

### The Steps This Article Would Initiate

Passage of the article would enable the Selectmen to explore and develop a CCA program. There are many steps to putting a CAA program in place, which typically take more than a year.

1. **Town Meeting vote** to pursue aggregation.
2. **Engage a consultant** to assist in the design, implementation, and monitoring of aggregation plan.
3. **Develop aggregation plan** with input from residents and Department of Energy Resources.
4. **Board of Selectmen authorizes the submission of aggregation plan** to the Department of Public Utilities.
5. **Submit plan to DPU for approval.** DPU convenes public hearings prior to decision.
6. **Procure electricity.** Issue RFP for competitive supplier. If prices and fuel types are acceptable, sign a contract.
7. **Required outreach** to inform all eligible program participants about the CCA program and ways to opt-out. Outreach would likely include meetings, direct notification to residents/eligible businesses, social media, etc.
8. **Program launch** to enroll Eversource Basic Service customers who have not opted out.

For more information go to:

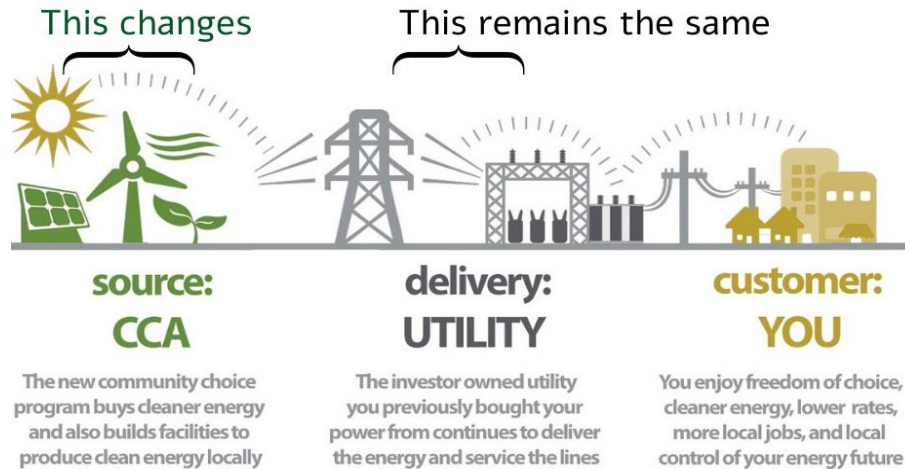
<https://www.mapc.org/our-work/expertise/clean-energy/green-municipal-aggregation/>  
<http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/doer/electric-deregulation/agg-guid.pdf>

### Frequently Asked Questions

**What will change under this program?** At present, Eversource provides two sets of services to residents:

1. They **supply** electricity, which means they buy electricity for you and pass the cost along to you ("Supply" portion on your bill).
2. They **deliver** electricity, which means they maintain the equipment and wires that bring electricity to you ("Delivery" portion on your bill).

Under a CCA program the municipality negotiates with an *alternative* energy supplier to replace Eversource's role as the supplier. Eversource will still send one bill for both delivery and supply.



**Whom do I call when the power is out under CCA?** You continue to call Eversource; they remain responsible for the delivery of your electricity.

**Will my bill go up? What has occurred in other towns?** Wayland will go out to bid for the prices of the electricity supply once we develop our aggregation plan. Experience in other towns that have pursued CCA is that municipalities have been able to provide prices that are competitive with or less than Eversource basic service rates with a higher percentage of renewable energy. This has happened in Sudbury, Natick, Watertown, and Brookline. Towns have also provided residents with the choice of a 100% renewable option, which typically costs more than the Eversource Basic Service.

**Do I have to participate?** No, participation is not required. You can opt out at any time and there is no penalty for opting out. Opting out means you will move back to the Eversource Basic Service rate.

**How do I opt out?** The opt out process will be determined once we develop our aggregation plan. In other communities the process is very easy to do by either a phone call, web site, or mail.

**I have already signed up for a green electricity option. Would this be better?** You may have selected or been approached by other suppliers. A CCA program can offer locally produced energy at a stable price from a vetted supplier.

**I have solar panels on my property. If I join the program, will I continue to receive net metering credits or SMART payment?** Yes. Net metering credits and SMART payments will work the same way if you participate in the program. Your net metering credits or payments from your solar panels will continue to appear on your Eversource bill and will continue to be calculated based on Eversource's Basic Service rate, not the CCA program rate.