

Westmoreland Community Power Committee

Minutes

January 5th 2023 Public Hearing, unapproved

Members Present

Melissa Bonito, Scott Talbot, Alan Bell, Mark Terry, Chris Ballou

Public Present

Sharon Combs-Far, Bruce Far, Harry Ackerman, John Snowdon, Henry Herndon

710pm Meeting Started by Mark Terry

We started out by introducing ourselves to each other. Mark Terry and the board were pleased that we got the turn out we did. Henry Herndon and Mark Terry presented the presentation attached below.

Questions asked:

Harry Ackerman Wanted to know if there was coordination between the Cheshire County program and the Westmoreland Program. Henry explained that the county program was a separate program though it was part of the coalition. If the town of Westmoreland joined the county program they would not have the same flexibility as running our own program. Alan Bell mentioned that he believed we would be a small fish in a large pond if the Town were to join the County program and that Westmoreland would be better served having it's on voice and seat at the table as it were.

Discussion between the room and Henry ensued regarding the towns ability to create projects based on a revenue from the coalition in order to offset energy prices in the future.

Henry Made it clear that there will be a reserve threshold for the coalition as a whole in order to maintain pricing stability, however each coalition member would have the ability to set pricing according to the towns needs and these additional funds would belong to the member town to utilize according to he best interests of that town.

It was brought up by Mark Terry that as the coalition is new and the first wave of towns is coming online we do not yet have the prices in order to compare with current Eversource pricing, but that we would get those numbers before the town meeting so that the towns people could see the real cost savings they can expect.

More discussion was had about how the town would decide to set rates and evaluate programs within our membership. John Snowdon said that the Board of Selectman would work with the community power committee to evaluate all of the options before taking any action. The committee would attend the Coalition board meetings and report back to the BOS, along with any other recommendations going forward once the program was established and operational.

Net metering was another question that came up. How would people who already had solar panels and credits with Eversource or another energy provider going to join. Henry said that net metering details were still being worked out, but the plan was to have those rates competitive with existing Eversource net metering rates. Those folks who had credits at the time of the Westmorland plan going “Live” would not opt in until they had cashed out of, or used their existing credits from the other provider at which point they could join and start to build credits with Westmoreland Community Power.

Meeting Dates were set for January 19th at 7pm and the next Public Hearing to be held on February 9th at 7pm.

Please see the presentation below:

Meeting closed at 759PM

Submitted by Alan Bell committee member and Clerk

Westmoreland Community Power

Electric Aggregation Plan Overview

5 January 2023



Presented by: Westmoreland Community Power Advisory Committee

Presented to: Westmoreland Residents, Property Owners, and Business Owners/Representatives

Westmoreland Community Power will allow the town to provide energy supply and related services, which should result in more affordable electricity and expanded options for Energy Consumers.

Agenda

1. Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire
2. What is Community Power?
3. Electric Aggregation Plan
4. Timeline for Westmoreland Community Power
5. Questions & Discussion



**COMMUNITY
POWER COALITION
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**
For communities, by communities.

1. Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH or “The Coalition”)

Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire

⚡ Community-governed not-for-profit Joint Power Agency formed on 10/1/21

⚡ **27 Members representing:**

- **20% of NH population**

- ~119,000 customers

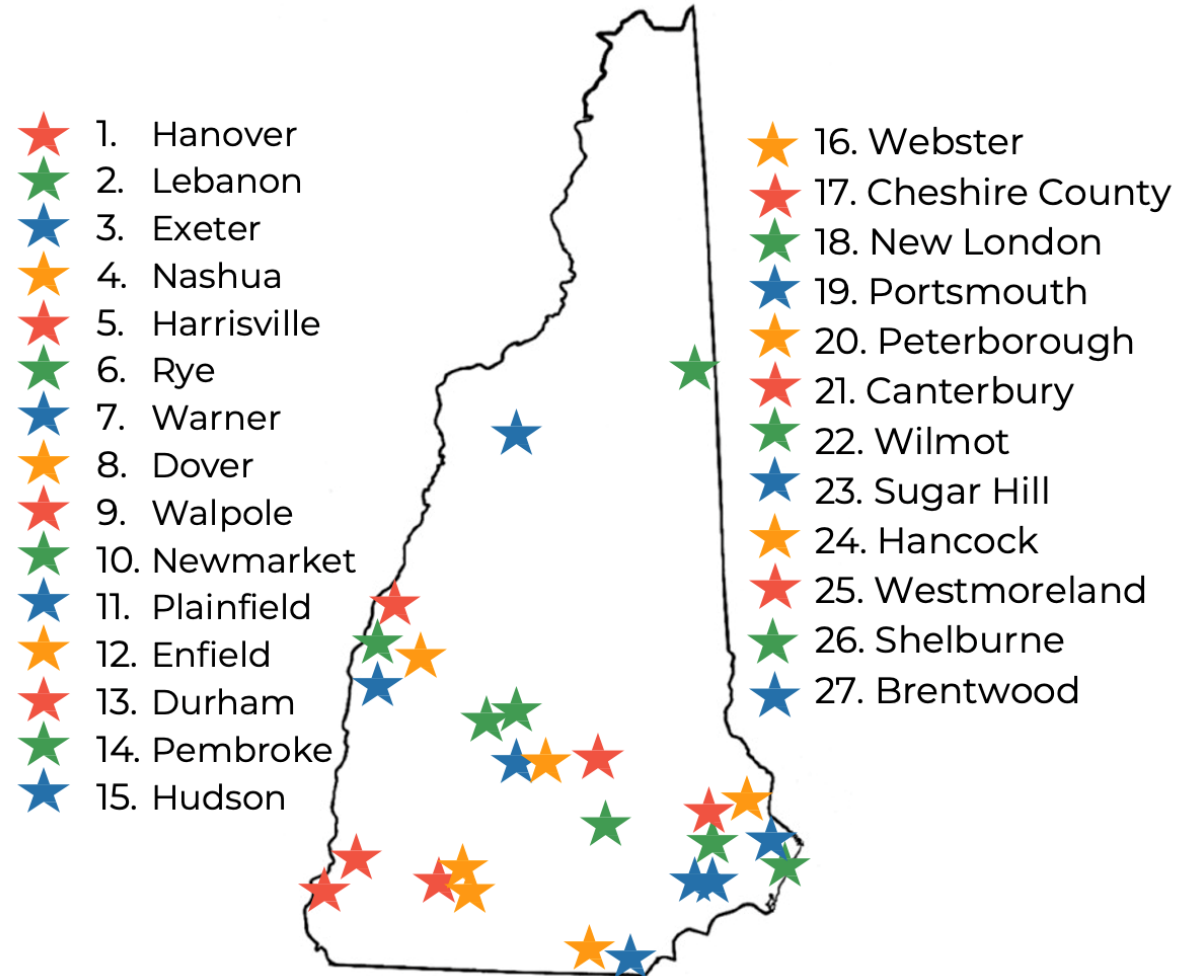
- ~960,000 MWh / year

- ~\$150 million / year revenues (controlled by communities)

⚡ Target windows for program launch:

- Spring 2023 for 12 Members

- Spring 2024 for 15 Members



Governed “for Communities, by Communities”

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. Chair Clifton Below, City of Lebanon (alt. Greg Ames)
2. Vice Chair Christopher Parker, City of Dover (alt. Jackson Kaspari)
3. Treasurer Kimberly Quirk, Town of Enfield (alt. Jo-Ellen Courtney)
4. Secretary Evan Oxenham, Town of Plainfield (alt. Steve Ladd)
5. Director Terry Clark, Cheshire County (alt. Chris Coates)
6. Director Doria Brown, City of Nashua (alt. Deb Chisholm)
7. Director Kevin Charette, City of Portsmouth (alt. Peter Rice)
8. Director Rick Labrecque, Town of Brentwood (alt. Tom Palma)
9. Director Kent Ruesswick, Town of Canterbury (alt. Howard Moffett)
10. Director Mandy Merrill, Town of Durham (alt. Nat Balch)
11. Director Nick Devonshire, Town of Exeter (alt. Julie Gilman)
12. Director Jim Callihan, Town of Hancock (alt. Robbie Hertneky)
13. Director April Salas, Town of Hanover (alt. Peter Kulbacki)
14. Director Andrea Hodson, Town of Harrisville (alt. Andrew Maneval)
15. Director Craig Putnam, Town of Hudson (alt. Kate Messner)
16. Director Jamie Hess, Town of New London (alt. Tim Paradis)
17. Director Toni Weinstein, Town of Newmarket (alt. Steve Fournier)
18. Director Steve Walker, Town of Peterborough (alt. Danica Melone)
19. Director Matt Miller, Town of Pembroke (alt. Jackie Wengenroth)
20. Director Lisa Sweet, Town of Rye (alt. Howard Kalet)
21. Director Michael Prange, Town of Shelburne (alt. Ray Danforth)
22. Director Jordan Applewhite, Town of Sugar Hill (alt. Margo Connors)
23. Director Paul Looney, Town of Walpole (alt. Dennis Marcom)
24. Director Clyde Carson, Town of Warner (alt. George Packard)
25. Director Marty Bender, Town of Webster (alt. David Hemenway)
26. Director Mark Terry, Town of Westmoreland (alt John Snowdon)
27. Director William Chaisson, Town of Wilmot (alt:)

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS



[Clifton Below](#)
[Chair](#)

City of Lebanon
Assistant Mayor & City
Councillor



[Kim Quirk](#)
[Treasurer](#)

Town of Enfield
Energy Committee



[Christopher Parker](#)
[Vice Chair](#)

City of Dover
Deputy City Manager



[Evan Oxenham](#)
[Secretary](#)

Town of Plainfield
Energy Committee



[Matt Miller](#)
[Chair, Risk](#)
[Management](#)

Town of Pembroke
Energy Committee



[Lisa Sweet](#)
[Chair, Member](#)
[Operations](#)

Town of Rye
Energy Committee



[Mandy Merrill](#)
[Chair, Regulatory &](#)
[Legislative Affairs](#)

Town of Durham
Energy Committee



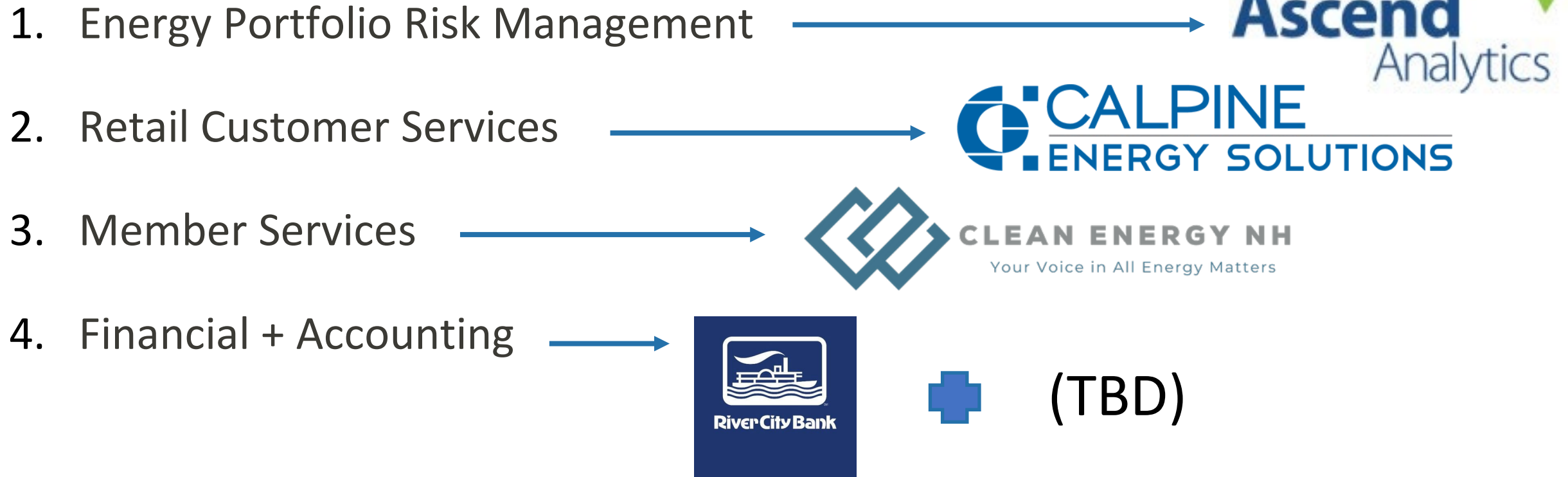
[April Salas](#)
[Chair of CEO &](#)
[Staff Search](#)

Town of Hanover
Sustainability Director

Operations: Wholesale, Retail, Members

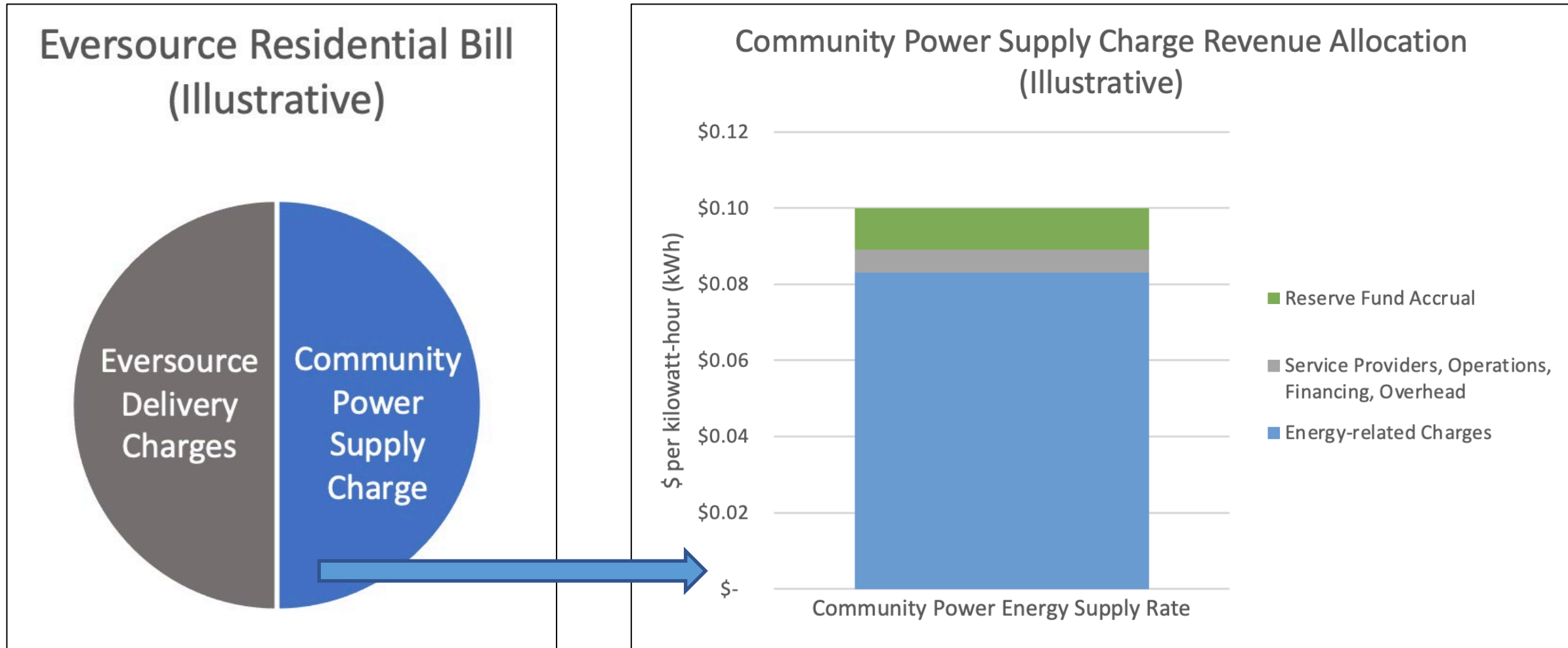
Request for Proposal for Comprehensive Services & Credit Support

Four service categories:



CPCNH is in the process of negotiating service & financing agreements with these firms

Illustration of Energy Supply Charge Revenue Allocation



(Average energy supply rates between 2019-2021 were ~ \$0.08 per kilowatt-hour (kWh). Supply increased to over \$0.15 per kWh in 2022. Energy supply rates fluctuate over time depending on market forces, availability of fuel and generators, weather, climate, and other factors. The \$0.10 per kWh supply rate in the graphic is for illustrative purposes.)

Westmoreland COMMUNITY POWER

Westmoreland
Community Power
Advisory Committee

Drafts Electric Aggregation Plan (EAP)

Sends EAP to Town Meeting vote
Appoints CPCNH Directors
Oversees Westmoreland CP

Select Board

Westmoreland RESIDENTS

CPCNH is formed and governed
by 27 Member communities,
including Westmoreland

CPCNH provides comprehensive
services to Westmoreland
Community Power



**COMMUNITY
POWER COALITION
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**
For communities, by communities.

Community-appointed
Board & Committees
Expert staff & vendors
Provides power & serves
customers

EAP



**PUBLIC UTILITIES
COMMISSION**

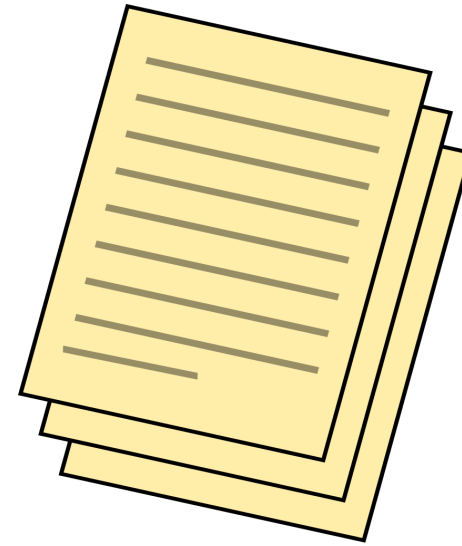
Approves
Westmoreland EAP

Eversource

Power Delivery,
Metering, Billing

ISO New England

Power Market



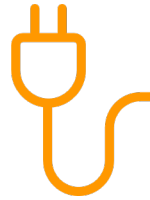
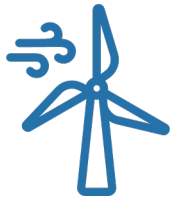
2. What is Community Power?

What is Community Power?

- ~ Community Power programs pool, or aggregate, the demand of customers in a community and purchase electric power on behalf of that community with the goal of **lowering costs** and expanding **access to renewable energy** and other innovations.
- ~ Community Power programs are enabled by New Hampshire's updated Community Power law [RSA 53-E, Relative to Aggregation of Electric Customers by Municipalities & Counties](#).
- ~ 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***".

What is Community Power?

New Hampshire cities, towns, and counties can procure **electric power supply** on behalf of their residents and businesses and provide related services.



Pooled Purchasing Power for **Energy Supply**

- ~ Access to competitive markets
- ~ Lower costs & price stability
- ~ Option to source power locally & access more renewables

Utilities continue to **Deliver** Power

- ~ Owns & maintains the power grid
- ~ Delivers generation to load
- ~ Ensures reliable electric service

Community Benefits from **Value Added Services**

- ~ Affordable rates
- ~ Access to green power options
- ~ Time-of-Use rate options
- ~ Solar, storage, electric vehicle support

Benefits of Community Power



Local Control

Democratizing energy procurement to the community level



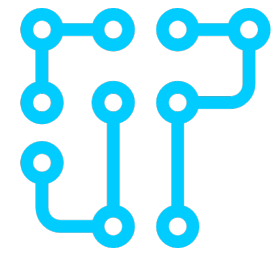
Lower Costs

MA, NY, CA and other markets have demonstrated lower rates than regulated utilities



Renewables

Build & Buy Clean Energy
Support more local renewables



Resilience & Innovation

New Technologies
Market Competition
Price Signals
Customer Empowerment

“Westmoreland Community Power will only launch if it is able to initially offer residential default rates that are lower than or competitive with those offered by Eversource.”

Electric Bill: Supply & Delivery

Page 1

Payment will be sent to bank
for processing on 09/24/21

\$145.64

Amount Due On 08/29/21	\$26.47
Last Payment Received On 08/25/21	-\$26.47
Balance Forward	\$0.00
Total Current Charges	\$145.64

Current Charges for Electricity

Supply

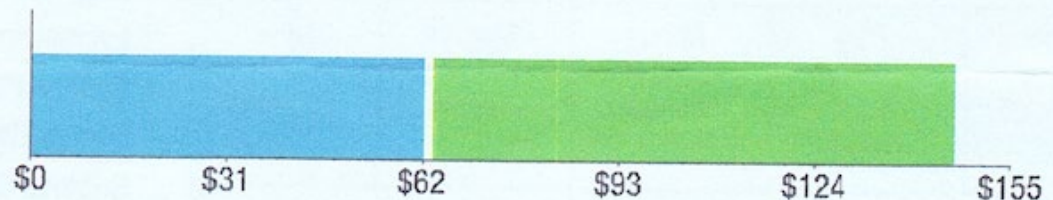
\$62.31

Cost of electricity from
Eversource

Delivery

\$83.33

Cost to deliver electricity
from Eversource



Your electric supplier is

Eversource
PO Box 330
Manchester, NH 03105-0330

Electric Bill: Supply & Delivery

Page 2

Total Charges for Electricity

Supplier Eversource	→	Supplier Westmoreland Community Power
Service Reference:	[REDACTED]	
Energy Chrg - Rate R	706.00kWh X \$0.08826	\$62.31
Subtotal Supplier Services		\$62.31

Delivery

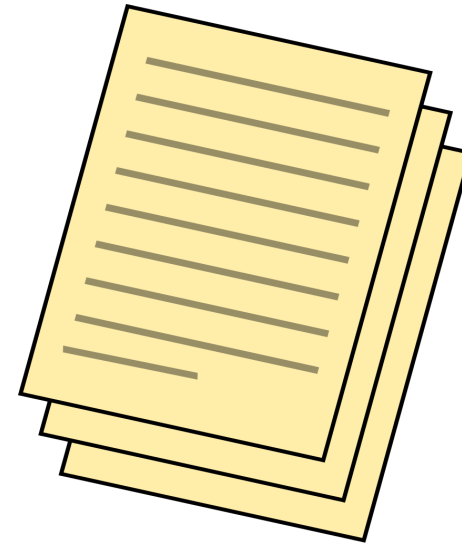
(RATE R RESIDENTIAL SVC)

Service Reference:	[REDACTED]	
Customer Chrg		\$13.81
kWh Distribution Chrg	706.00kWh X \$0.05177	\$36.55
Regulatory Reconciliation Adj	706.00kWh X \$-0.00016	-\$0.11
Transmission Chrg	706.00kWh X \$0.03046	\$21.50
Strnded Cst Recovery Chrg	706.00kWh X \$0.00896	\$6.33
System Benefits Chrg	706.00kWh X \$0.00743	\$5.25
Subtotal Delivery Services		\$83.33
Total Cost of Electricity		\$145.64

Total Current Charges **\$145.64**

Key Points

- ~ **Eversource will continue to deliver electricity** to customers, and to own and operate the local distribution system (poles, wires, transformers, sub-stations, etc.). They will also continue to provide customer service and billing.
- ~ The Select Board, with advisory support from the Westmoreland Community Power Advisory Committee, will be **authorized to contract for the necessary professional services and power supplies to launch Westmoreland Community Power.**
- ~ **Participation in Community Power is completely voluntary.** After electricity rates are established, all customers not already on competitive supply will be notified and automatically enrolled. Customers can choose to opt-out and stay with Eversource for electricity supply. Customers on competitive supply may choose to opt-in to Westmoreland Community Power or stay with their current supplier.



3. The Electric Aggregation Plan

What is the Electric Aggregation Plan?

- ~ The Select Board designated the Westmoreland Community Power Advisory Committee as the Electric Aggregation Committee pursuant to RSA 53-E.
- ~ The Select Board tasked the Committee with preparing an Electric Aggregation Plan. This is a detailed plan that explains how our Community Power program will operate. It eventually will be available for your review on the Westmoreland town webpage.
- ~ The Westmoreland Community Power Advisory Committee (also pursuant to RSA 53-E) will hold two Public Hearings, on 5 January 2023 and 9 February 2023, to educate the community about the plan and get community input.

Purpose of the Electric Aggregation Plan

- ~ Defines program goals and objectives
- ~ Defines governance (E.g., process for approving rates)
- ~ Summarizes the implementation process
- ~ Commits Westmoreland to comply with applicable statutes and regulations in terms of:

(a) Providing universal access, reliability, and equitable treatment of all classes of customers;

(b) Meeting, at a minimum, the basic environmental and service standards established by the Public Utilities Commission and other applicable agencies and laws and rules.

The Plan does:

Address issues required to be considered by RSA 53-E including:

- (a) How net metering will be provided; and
- (b) How customers enrolled in the Electric Assistance Program will receive their discount.

The Plan does not:

- Commit the Town to any defined course of action; or
- Impose any financial commitment or liability on the Town of Westmoreland or its taxpayers.

Electric Aggregation Plan Overview

Chapters:

1. Introduction to Community Power
2. Overview of Westmoreland Community Power
3. Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire
4. Westmoreland's Goals, Objectives & Requirements
5. Statutory Requirements for Westmoreland's Plan

Attachments:

1. Net Energy Metering, Group Net Metering & Low-Moderate Income Solar Project
2. Westmoreland's Public Planning Process
3. Town Policy Excerpts
4. How Load Serving Entity Services will be Implemented
5. Customer Data Protection Plan
6. Abbreviations

Goal of Westmoreland Electric Aggregation

The overall goal of Westmoreland's community power aggregation is to harness the power of competitive markets and community-scale purchasing of electricity to reduce costs, increase supply options, enable greater customer choice, and provide services to enhance the lives of customers.

Westmoreland Community Power Objectives

- **Competitive Rates:** provide residential default rates that are lower than or competitive with those offered by Eversource.
- **Expanded Choices and Enhanced Customer Focus:** 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.
- **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.
- **Consumer Protections:** ensure that the contracts entered into on behalf of customers are fair and represent the interests of Westmoreland and its residents.

Westmoreland Community Power Objectives

- **Public Advocacy:** represent the interests of Westmoreland and the program's customers at the Legislature, Public Utility Commission and other relevant agencies on matters pertaining to Community Power and towards creating a more modern electric grid.
- **Cleaner, Local Power:** prioritize the development of cost-effective projects to supply an affordable energy portfolio that prioritizes the use of in-state and local renewable energy.
- **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, electric vehicle charging networks and community microgrids on critical facilities.
- **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 and charging corridors, and other clean energy infrastructure developments.

Westmoreland Community Power will

1. **Serve as the default electricity supplier** on an “opt-out” basis
2. **Offer innovative service and rate options to customers on an "opt-in" basis** such as more renewable energy and time-varying rates
3. **Operate on a competitive basis** – Customers will be able to switch back to Eversource energy service or other supplier *with no penalty*.
4. **Be self-funded** by rates paid by participating customers – **The Town will not use taxes to cover program expenses.**

The Select Board, with advisory support from the Westmoreland Community Power Advisory Committee, will contract for the necessary services and power supplies to implement and operate the program, set customer rates prior to program launch, and continue to provide oversight thereafter.

Customer Notification and Enrollment Process

- ~ At least **30 days before program launch** all Westmoreland electric customers will be **mailed notifications** that will include the initial fixed rate for Westmoreland Community Power service compared with Eversource
- ~ Customers currently on default energy service provided by Eversource will be **able to decline participation or “opt-out”** of Westmoreland Community Power by a return postcard, online, or by calling a customer service number.
- ~ If a **customer is already getting their power from a competitive supplier**, nothing will change unless they choose to switch and **“opt-in”** to Westmoreland Community Power.
- ~ New utility customers will get similar opt-out notices.
- ~ All Westmoreland Community Power default service customers will always be able to know the fixed rate at least 30 days in advance and be able to switch supplier at next meter read upon request with **no penalty or exit fee**.

4. Timeline for Westmoreland Community Power

Westmoreland Community Power Timeline

- ~ **Step 1:** Conduct Research and Form Community Power Committee
- ~ **Step 2:** Draft Community Power Plan / Hold Public Hearings
- ~ **Step 3:** Bring Plan to Town Meeting for vote of adoption
- ~ **Step 4:** Contract with Service Provider, Notify Customers, Launch!



5. Questions/Comments



THANK FOR YOUR INTEREST!



Questions? Comments

mwterry@gmail.com

- ✓ The Westmoreland Electric Aggregation Plan
- ✓ Presentation on the Electric Aggregation Plan
- ✓ Frequently Asked Questions

✓ **NEXT PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION on 9 February 2023, 7:00 PM, in the Town Hall**