

# Town of Bellingham

## Municipal Aggregation Plan

July 19, 2016

The Town of Bellingham (the “Town”) has developed the Bellingham Power Choice program to bring the benefits of low cost power, electricity choice, and renewable energy to its residents and businesses. The program is part of the Town’s efforts to promote economic growth and environmental sustainability.

### I. Key Features

The key features of the Town’s municipal aggregation program will include:

**Price:** The Town will secure its power supply by requesting competitive bids from the largest and most experienced power suppliers in the region. This competition will result in the best possible price.

**Consumer protection:** The Town’s program will include strong consumer protections, including the ability for any customer to leave the standard product at any time with no penalty or fee. There will be no hidden charges of any kind.

**Product options:** The Town will offer at least two options, a standard product and a greener product, giving customers a choice of environmental characteristics, terms of service, and price.

### II. Procedural Requirements

The Municipal Aggregation Statute, G.L. c. 164, § 134, sets out the legal requirements for a municipal aggregation plan. Those requirements include procedural requirements, specified plan elements, and substantive requirements. The procedural requirements are discussed below, and the other requirements in the sections that follow.

#### 1. Local Approval

The Municipal Aggregation Statute provides that a town may initiate the process to aggregate electrical load upon authorization by a majority vote of town meeting. The Town obtained such authorization by vote at its Annual Town Meeting held on May 25, 2016. A copy of the Town Meeting vote is attached as Exhibit A.

#### 2. Consultation with the Department of Energy Resources

The aggregation statute also requires the Town to consult with the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) in developing its aggregation plan. The Town submitted a draft of its Aggregation Plan to DOER and Town officials met with DOER to discuss that draft on July 7, 2016.

#### 3. Citizen Review

The Town has made the Aggregation Plan available for review by its citizens at a public meeting of the Board of Selectmen on June 27, 2016. The draft Aggregation Plan was posted on the Town website with a comment period for the Town’s electricity consumers to submit feedback.

### III. Elements of the Plan

The Municipal Aggregation Statute requires that the Aggregation Plan contain the following elements:

- Organizational structure
- Operations
- Funding
- Details on rate setting and other costs to participants
- The method of entering and terminating agreements with other entities
- The rights and responsibilities of program participants
- The procedure for termination of the program

Each of those elements is discussed in turn below.

#### 1. Organizational Structure

The organizational structure of the aggregation program will be as follows:

**Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator:** The aggregation will be approved by the Board of Selectmen, the elected representatives of the citizens of the Town, and overseen by the Town Administrator.

**Consultants:** The Town’s aggregation consulting team (hereinafter jointly referred to as “Consultant”) will manage the aggregation under the Town Administrator’s direction. Their responsibilities will include managing the supply procurement, developing and implementing the public education plan, interacting with the local distribution company, and monitoring the supply contract. The Town has selected the team of Bay State Consultants and Peregrine Energy Group to provide these services for an initial term.

**Competitive Supplier:** The competitive supplier will provide power for the aggregation, provide customer support including staffing a toll-free number for customer questions, and fulfill other responsibilities as detailed in the Competitive Electric Service Agreement.

#### 2. Operations

Following approval of the Plan by the Department of Public Utilities (DPU), the key operational steps will be:

- a. Issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) and select winning competitive supplier
- b. Implement the public information program, including notice of the 30-day opt-out period
- c. Enroll customers and provide service, including required information disclosures

##### a. Issue a Request for Proposals and select winning competitive supplier

After the DPU approves the Aggregation Plan, the next step is to procure the electricity supply.

The Town will solicit bids from leading competitive suppliers, including those currently supplying aggregations in Massachusetts and other states. The RFP will require that the supplier satisfy key threshold criteria, including:

- Licensed by the DPU
- Strong financial background

- Experience serving the Massachusetts competitive market or municipal aggregations in other states
- Demonstrated ability, supported by references, to provide strong customer service

In addition, suppliers will be required to agree to the terms and conditions of a Competitive Electric Service Agreement (ESA), substantially in the form of the Town’s model Competitive Electric Service Agreement. The agreement requires the supplier to:

- Provide all-requirements service
- Allow customers to exit the standard product at any time with no penalty or fee
- Agree to specified customer service standards
- Comply with all requirements of the DPU and the local distribution company

The Town will solicit price bids from suppliers that meet the threshold criteria and agree to the terms and conditions prescribed in the ESA. If none of the bids are satisfactory, the Town will reject all bids and repeat the solicitation as often as needed until market conditions yield a price that is acceptable to the Town.

The Town will solicit bids both for power supply that meets the Massachusetts Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) requirements and for a greener supply containing additional renewable energy over and above the RPS requirements. The renewable energy in the power supply will be documented using Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs). The Town will seek bids that include RECs from a variety of renewable sources, and will choose the proposal that offers the best combination of environmental benefit and price.

The Town will ask bidders to identify the technology, vintage, and location of the renewable generators that are the sources of the RECs. The Town will require that the RECs either be created and recorded in the New England Power Pool Generation Information System or be certified by a third party such as Green-e.

**b. Implement public information program, including notice of the pre-launch opt-out period**

Once a winning supplier is selected, the Town will implement a public education program.

The delivery of a public education plan and associated materials are pivotal to ensuring clarity, participation, and enthusiasm for the aggregation. The Town will use a variety of communication vehicles to communicate the plan’s objectives, the primary terms and conditions of the contract, and the right to opt out of the program.

The public education plan will include both broad-based efforts and a 30-day opt-out notice to be mailed to every eligible customer on basic service.

*i. Broad-based education efforts*

The broad-based efforts will take advantage of traditional media, the Web, and social media to ensure as many people as possible learn about the aggregation. Planned elements include:

- An announcement introducing the program and the competitive supplier, which will be sent to media contacts at local newspapers and other outlets identified as valuable by the Town.
- Dedicated informational Web pages that explain the Aggregation Plan, community benefits, the opt-out process, the environmental content of the power supply, and other helpful information.

This site will be available during the initial educational outreach and also on an ongoing basis so that customers can find information about the program for its duration.

- A toll-free customer information and support hotline.
- Interviews with the local cable access channel.
- An informational slide broadcast on the local cable access television channel.
- Announcements on the Town's social media accounts.
- Informational documents that mirror the aggregation web site content and can be used as handouts during the community presentation. These materials will also be made available through the website as downloadable files and in the Town Hall and other public buildings.
- A community-wide presentation, open to all community members.
- A presentation during the regularly scheduled monthly meeting for seniors at the Bellingham Senior Center.
- Mention in the *Bellingham Bulletin*, a monthly publication delivered for free to every household in Bellingham.
- Dedicated office hours during which the Town consultants will be available to answer questions about the program on a one-to-one basis.

A detailed timeline for these efforts will be developed as the launch gets closer.

*ii. Notice of the 30-day, pre-launch opt-out period*

In addition to the broad-based education initiatives, a 30-day opt-out notice will be mailed to every eligible customer on basic service. The notice will be an official Town communication, and it will be sent in an envelope clearly marked as containing time-sensitive information related to the program. The notice will: (1) introduce and describe the program; (2) inform customers of their right to opt-out and that they will be automatically enrolled if they do not exercise that right; (3) explain how to opt out; and (4) prominently state all program charges and compare the price and primary terms of the Town's competitive supply to the price and terms of utility basic service. The opt-out notice is attached to this Plan as Exhibit B. The opt-out envelope is attached as Exhibit C.

The direct mailing will include an opt-out reply card. Customers will have 30 days from the date of the mailing to return the reply card if they wish to opt out of the program by this method. The notice will be designed by the Town and printed and mailed by the competitive supplier, who will process the opt-out replies. The opt-out reply card is attached to this Plan as Exhibit D. A postage-paid return envelope will be included for use with the reply card.

**c. Enroll customers and provide service, including information disclosure**

After the completion of the 30-day opt-out period, the competitive supplier will enroll into the program all basic service customers that did not opt out. All enrollments and other transactions between the competitive supplier and the local distribution companies,<sup>1</sup> Eversource and National Grid, will be conducted in compliance with the relevant provisions of DPU regulations, the local distribution

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<sup>1</sup> The Town of Bellingham is served by two local distribution companies: Eversource and National Grid. The Town will work with both local distribution companies to implement the aggregation and will provide the appropriate notifications to both distribution companies of changes in the aggregation.

companies' Terms and Conditions (as amended or superseded from time to time)<sup>2</sup>, and the protocols of the Massachusetts Electronic Business Transactions Working Group.

Once customers are enrolled, the electricity supplier will provide all-requirements power supply service. The supplier will also provide ongoing customer service, maintain a program web site, and process new customer enrollments, ongoing opt-outs, opt-back-ins, and customer selections of optional products. Prior to the expiration of the initial power supply agreement, the Town intends to enter a new supply agreement.

As part of its ongoing service, the Town will provide the disclosure information required by G.L. c. 164, § 1(F)(6) and 220 C.M.R. § 11.06. Like the other Massachusetts aggregations, the Town requests a waiver from the requirement that the disclosure label be mailed to every customer and seeks permission instead to provide the information through alternative means, including press releases, announcements on cable television, postings at Town Hall, and postings on the program website. As the DPU has found with other aggregations, this alternate information disclosure strategy will allow the Town to provide the required information to its customers as effectively as through mailings.

#### **d. Annual report to DOER**

On an annual basis, the Town will report to DOER on the status of the program, including number of customers enrolled and opting-out, kilowatt-hour sales, customer savings, and participation in green products (all as provided to the Town by the supplier), as well as such other information as DOER may request.

### **3. Funding**

All of the costs of the program will be funded through the supply contract.

The primary cost will be the competitive supplier's charges for the power supply. These charges will include the costs of RECs and will be established through the competitive solicitation for a supplier.

The administrative costs of the program will be funded through a per kilowatt-hour adder that will be included in the supply price and paid by the competitive supplier to the Consultant, as specified in the Competitive Electric Service Agreement. This fee will cover the services of the Consultant, including developing the Aggregation Plan, managing the DPU approval process, managing the supply procurement, developing and implementing the public education plan, providing customer support, interacting with the local distribution company, monitoring the supply contract, and providing ongoing reports. This charge has been set initially at \$0.001 per kilowatt-hour.

### **4. Rate Setting and Other Costs to Participants**

As described above, the program's electricity supply charges will be set through a competitive bidding process and will include the administrative adder. Prices, terms, and conditions will vary by product and may differ among customer classes. For each customer class, prices will be fixed for periods at least as

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<sup>2</sup> For National Grid, the *Terms and Conditions for Municipal Aggregators*; for Eversource, the *Terms and Conditions for Competitive Suppliers*.

long as the basic service price period for the class.<sup>3</sup> When prices change, the Town will notify consumers by issuing a media release and posting a notice on the Town web site.

The program affects only customers' electricity supply charges. Delivery charges will be unchanged and will continue to be charged by both local distribution companies in accordance with tariffs approved by the DPU.

Participants will receive one bill from their local distribution company that includes both the electricity supply charge and their local distribution company's delivery charges.

## 5. Method of Entering and Terminating Agreements with Other Entities

The Town's process for entering, modifying, enforcing, and terminating all agreements associated with the Aggregation Plan will comply with the Town's charter, federal and state law and regulations, and the provisions of the relevant agreement.

When the Town has decided that it is timely to solicit bids for a new electric service agreement, the procurement steps will be as follows:

- The Town's consultants will prepare and issue an RFQ on behalf of the Town
- The Town will receive and evaluate qualifications
- The Town's consultants will issue an RFP for prices
- The Town will receive and evaluate bids and, if acceptable, execute a contract with the winning bidder. The Board of Selectmen will be responsible for executing the supply contract.

If the prices bid on any given bid date are not satisfactory, the Town will wait to see if market conditions improve and then repeat the process.

## 6. Rights and Responsibilities of Program Participants

All participants will have the right to opt out of the standard product at any time without charge. They may exercise that right by any of the following: 1) calling the Competitive Supplier's toll-free number; 2) contacting their local distribution company, either Eversource or National Grid as is appropriate, and asking to be returned to basic service; or 3) enrolling with another competitive supplier.

All participants will have the consumer protection provisions of Massachusetts law and regulations, including the right to question billing and service quality practices. Customers will be able to ask questions of and register complaints with the Town, Consultant, the competitive supplier, their local distribution company, either Eversource or National Grid as appropriate, and the DPU. As appropriate, the Town and Consultant will direct customer complaints to the competitive supplier, the local distribution company, or the DPU.

Participants will be responsible for paying their bills and for providing access to metering and other equipment necessary to carry out utility operations.

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<sup>3</sup> Basic service pricing periods vary by customer class. For residential and small business customers, the prices change every six months. For medium and large business customers, prices change monthly.

## 7. Extension or Termination of Program

Prior to the end of the term of the initial Competitive Electric Service Agreement, The Town will solicit bids for a new supply agreement and plans to continue the program with the same or a new competitive supplier.

Although the Town is not contemplating a termination date, the program could be terminated upon the termination or expiration of the Competitive Electric Service Agreement without any extension, renewal, or negotiation of a subsequent supply contract, or upon the decision of the Board of Selectmen to dissolve the program effective on the end date of any outstanding supply agreement. In the event of termination, customers would be returned to their local distribution company's basic service via Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) by the competitive supplier in accordance with the rules set forth in the Electronic Business Transactions (EBT) Working Group Report unless the customers choose an alternative competitive supplier.

The Town will notify both local distribution companies of the planned termination or extension of the program. In particular, the Town will provide notice: (1) 90 days prior to a planned termination of the program; (2) 90 days prior to the end of the anticipated term of the program's ESA; and (3) four business-days after the successful negotiation of a new electricity service agreement.

The Town will notify consumers of program termination by issuing a media release and posting a notice on the Town web site. In addition, consumers will receive notice of a supplier change on their bill from the local distribution company.

## IV. Substantive Requirements

The Municipal Aggregation Statute also requires that the aggregation plan satisfy three substantive requirements:

- Universal access
- Reliability
- Equitable treatment of all customer classes

The Town's program will satisfy all three requirements, as discussed below.

### 1. Universal Access

The Aggregation Plan provides for universal access by guaranteeing that all customer classes will be included in the program under equitable terms.

Most importantly, all customers will have access to the program. All eligible basic service customers will be automatically enrolled in the program unless they choose to opt out.

As new customers move into the Town, they will have an opportunity to join the program. New customers will initially be placed on basic service. They will then receive an opt-out notice and will be enrolled in the aggregation unless they choose to opt out within the 30-day opt-out period. New customers will be enrolled at the same price as the existing customers, with the exception of new Very Large Commercial and Industrial Customers ("VLC&I Customers"). New VLC&I Customers are defined as any customer that is on the utility's largest rate class and has historical or projected consumption in excess of 1,000,000 kWh per year. These customers, if any, will be enrolled at a price that reflects market prices at the time of enrollment.

All customers will have the right to opt out of the program at any time. Customers that opt out will have the right to return to the program at a price that reflects market prices at the time of their return.

## 2. Reliability

Reliability has both physical and financial components. The program will address both through the ESA with the competitive supplier. From a physical perspective, the ESA commits the competitive supplier to provide all-requirements power supply and to use proper standards of management and operations (ESA, Article 2.) The local distribution company will remain responsible for delivery service, including the physical delivery of power to the consumer, maintenance of the delivery system, and restoration of power in the event of an outage. From a financial perspective, the ESA requires the supplier to pay actual damages for any failure to provide supply at the contracted rate (i.e., to pay the difference between the contract rate and the utility supply rate). The ESA also requires the competitive supplier to maintain insurance (ESA, Article 16). Accordingly, the program satisfies the reliability requirement of the statute.

## 3. Equitable Treatment of all Customer Classes

The Aggregation Statute requires “equitable” treatment of all customer classes. The DPU has determined that this does not mean that all customers must be treated “equally,” but rather that similarly-situated classes be treated “equitably.” In particular, the DPU has allowed variations in pricing and terms and conditions between customer classes to account for the disparate characteristics of those classes.

The program makes four distinctions between groupings of customers. First, the program will distinguish among customer classes (residential, small business, large business) by soliciting separate pricing for each of those classes. The program will use the same customer classes that the local distribution companies use for their basic service pricing.

Second, the program will distinguish between customers receiving the standard product and customers that affirmatively choose an optional product, such as a green product. Customers selecting the optional product will be charged the price and terms of service associated with that product.

Third, as described above under “Universal Access,” among New Customers, the program may distinguish between a) New VLC&I Customers, and b) all other New Customers. The program will offer New Customers other than New VLC&I Customers the standard contract pricing. However, the program will offer new VLC&I Customers pricing based on market prices at the time the customer seeks to join the aggregation.

Finally, consistent with DPU rulings, among customers that are served by a competitive supplier at the time of program launch and later seek to join the aggregation, the program will distinguish between a) residential and small commercial and industrial (C&I) customers, and b) medium, large, and very large C&I customers. Residential and small C&I customers will be offered standard contract pricing. Medium, large, and very large C&I customers will be offered market based rates which will reflect market conditions at the time the customer seeks to join the aggregation.



## V. PLANNED SCHEDULE

Milestone	Day Estimate
RFQ for competitive supplier issued	Day 1
RFP for final supply prices issued	Day 35
Electricity Supply Agreement executed	Day 49
Broad-based educational campaign begins, including the announcement of supply contract and pricing and the launch of program web site.	Day 50
Opt-out notice mailed to customers	Day 56
Opt-out deadline	Day 86
Service begins as of each customer's next meter read date	Day 90

The planned schedule is presented for illustrative purposes. The final schedule will be established when the Town receives regulatory approval.<sup>4</sup>

## VI. CONCLUSION

The Bellingham Power Choice program meets all of the requirements of the municipal aggregation statute, including providing universal access and a reliable power supply and treating all customer classes equitably. The Town looks forward to the approval of this plan by the DPU so that the Town can launch the program and bring the benefits of rate stability, renewable energy, and increased electricity choice to its residents and businesses.

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<sup>4</sup> The planned schedule is designed to give the competitive supplier sufficient time to satisfy EDI testing requirements. However, the schedule will be adjusted if additional time is needed to meet those requirements.



EXHIBIT A  
Town Meeting Resolution Authorizing Aggregation

**TOWN OF BELLINGHAM**

OFFICE OF  
TOWN CLERK

Bellingham Municipal Center  
10 Mechanic Street  
Bellingham, MA 02019

Town Clerk  
Ann L. Odabashian

Tel.: 508-657-2830  
Fax: 508-657-2832

June 3, 2016

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

**RE: ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF  
MAY 27, 2016 AT 7:30 PM**

I hereby certify the following to be a true record of the voted adopted under Article 24  
Of the qualified voters of the Town of Bellingham at the above referenced meeting.

**ARTICLE 24. MUNICIPAL AGGREGATION OF ELECTRICITY**

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to G. L. c. 164, s. 134, or other applicable statutes, to grant the Board of Selectmen authority to research, develop and participate in a contract, or contracts, to aggregate the electricity load of the residents and businesses in the Town and for other related services, independently, or in joint action with other municipalities, retaining the right of individual residents and businesses to opt-out of the aggregation; or act or do anything in relation thereto.

(By: Board of Selectmen)

**VOTE:** The Town voted unanimously, pursuant to G. L. c. 164, s. 134, or other applicable statutes, to grant the Board of Selectmen authority to research, develop and participate in a contract to aggregate the electricity load of the residents and businesses in the Town and for other related services while retaining the right of individual residents and businesses to opt-out of the aggregation at any time.

(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen)

Adjourned at 9:34 PM.

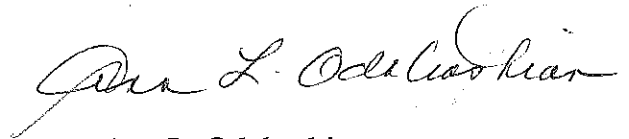
No quorum required.

Attendance:

P - 1	P - 2	P - 3	P - 4	P - 4A	P - 5	TOTAL
15	26	6	11	1	19	78

A True Record.

ATTEST:



Ann L. Odabashian  
Bellingham Town Clerk



EXHIBIT B  
Opt-Out Notice - for Eversource customers

# TOWN OF BELLINGHAM ELECTRICITY PROGRAM NOTIFICATION LETTER

<MONTH> <DAY>, 2017

Dear Bellingham Electricity Service Customer,

This letter contains important information about your electricity bill.

**Bellingham Power Choice** is a new Town program designed to help you save money on electricity and protect you from seasonal utility price swings. Bellingham Power Choice is a municipal electricity aggregation. By bulk-purchasing electricity for the entire community through the program, Bellingham has negotiated a lower rate for the electricity supply portion of your bill than Eversource's Basic Service rate.

**If you received this letter, you will be AUTOMATICALLY enrolled in Bellingham Power Choice, unless you choose not to participate.**

- If you participate: Eversource will deliver your electricity, fix power outages, and bill you, but Bellingham will choose your electricity supplier. Bellingham has negotiated a <XX>-month contract with <SUPPLIER NAME> to supply electricity to Town residents and businesses from <MONTH> <YEAR> meter reads through <MONTH> <YEAR> meter reads.
- If you do not participate: Eversource will continue to choose your electricity supplier.

## PROGRAM BENEFITS

**SAVINGS** - Bellingham has negotiated a fixed price that is below Eversource Basic Service winter rates at program launch. However, Eversource prices change periodically. As a result, the program price will not always be below the Eversource price. The program goal is to deliver savings *when costs are averaged across all <XX> months of the contract.*

**CHOICE** - Bellingham Power Choice gives you two alternatives to Eversource Basic Service: 1) Power Choice Standard, which you will be enrolled in automatically and which meets state renewable energy requirements, and 2) Power Choice Plus, an option that includes a higher percentage of renewable energy (*more information on the back*).

**PREDICTABILITY** - Your electricity supply price will not change before your <MONTH> <YEAR> meter read. Program terms are public. There are no hidden costs.

## YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH EVERSOURCE

Your primary relationship for electricity will remain with Eversource. Participating in Bellingham Power Choice impacts only your electricity supplier. Beginning with your <MONTH> <YEAR> Eversource bill, you will see <SUPPLIER NAME> printed under Supply Services. Otherwise:

- Your bill will continue to come from Eversource
- You will continue to send bill payments to Eversource
- You will continue to call Eversource if your power goes out

**If you are eligible for a low-income delivery rate or fuel assistance, you will continue to receive those benefits.**

## YOUR NEW PRICE FOR ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

▶ <X.XX> ¢/kWh

For all customers:  
residential, small businesses,  
and medium and  
large businesses

Compare to Eversource  
rates on the back. ▶

## QUESTIONS?

- ▶ Visit [www.bellinghamma.org/Pages/powerchoice](http://www.bellinghamma.org/Pages/powerchoice)
- ▶ Call: 1-844-483-5004 or email [bellingham@masspowerchoice.com](mailto:bellingham@masspowerchoice.com) with questions about the program.

## DON'T WANT TO PARTICIPATE?

- ▶ **There is no penalty or fee to opt out of the program, and you may do so at any time.**

Opt out before the program begins: **Before <MONTH> <DATE>, 2017**, sign and return the enclosed postcard or opt out online at [www.bellinghamma.org/Pages/powerchoice](http://www.bellinghamma.org/Pages/powerchoice).

Opt out in the future: Call <SUPPLIER NAME> at <1-800-XXX-XXXX> or opt out online at [www.bellinghamma.org/Pages/powerchoice](http://www.bellinghamma.org/Pages/powerchoice).

If you opt out, you will remain an Eversource Basic Service customer.

*Important information on the back* ▶

## COMPARATIVE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY RATES AND TERMS

All program participants will automatically receive Power Choice Standard. To receive it, you need to do nothing.

As an Eversource Basic Service customer, you will be automatically enrolled.

To choose **Power Choice Plus**, contact <SUPPLIER NAME> at 1-800-XXX-XXXX.

	<b>Power Choice Standard</b>	<b>Optional: Power Choice Plus</b>	<b>Eversource Basic Service</b>
<b>Renewable Energy Content</b>	Meets Massachusetts renewable energy requirements.	<INSERT DETAILS>	Meets Massachusetts renewable energy requirements.
<b>Rate Term</b>	<MONTH> <YEAR> meter read – <MONTH> <YEAR> meter read	<MONTH> <YEAR> meter read – <MONTH> <YEAR> meter read	<MONTH> <DAY>, <YEAR> – <MONTH> <DAY>, <YEAR> **
Residential	X.XX ¢/kWh	XX.XX ¢/kWh	XX.XXX ¢/kWh
Small business	X.XX ¢/kWh	XX.XX ¢/kWh	XX.XXX ¢/kWh
Medium and large business	X.XX ¢/kWh	XX.XX ¢/kWh	XX.XX ¢/kWh (<MONTH> <DAY>, <YEAR> - <MONTH> <DAY>, <YEAR>) **
<b>Exit Terms</b>	Leave any time. No exit charge.	Leave any time. No exit charge.	Leave any time. No exit charge.

\* New renewable energy projects are those projects that came into commercial operation after January 1, 1998. The additional new renewable projects incorporated into Power Choice Plus are from <PROJECT TYPE>.

\*\* Eversource’s fixed Basic Service rates change every six (6) months for residential and small business accounts and every month for medium and large business accounts.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**WHAT IS ELECTRICITY SUPPLY?** Electricity service has two parts, delivery and supply. Electricity delivery is the process of bringing electricity to you along wires. Electricity supply is the electricity itself. Eversource is responsible for your electricity delivery. In addition, Eversource typically chooses your electricity supplier and passes that cost along to you. This is called Eversource Basic Service. Within Bellingham Power Choice, Eversource will continue to deliver the electricity but will no longer choose the electricity supplier. Instead, Bellingham will choose an electricity supplier for Town residents and businesses through a competitive bid process.

**DO I HAVE TO PARTICIPATE?** You do not have to participate in the program. To opt out before the program begins, sign and return the enclosed postcard before <MONTH> <DATE>, or opt out online at [www.bellinghamma.org/Pages/powerchoice](http://www.bellinghamma.org/Pages/powerchoice).

**I HAVE SIGNED MY OWN CONTRACT WITH AN ELECTRICITY SUPPLIER. WILL I BE AUTOMATICALLY ENROLLED?** If you have already established a contract with a different electricity supplier, you should not be automatically enrolled. If you received this letter but you have an existing electricity supply contract, you should opt out of the program.

**I HAVE SOLAR PANELS ON MY PROPERTY. IF I JOIN, WILL I CONTINUE TO RECEIVE NET METERING CREDITS?** Yes. Net metering will work the same way if you participate in the program. Your net metering credits from your solar panels will continue to appear on your Eversource bill and will continue to be calculated based on Eversource’s Basic Service price.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact customer support at [bellingham@masspowerchoice.com](mailto:bellingham@masspowerchoice.com) or 1-844-483-5004. Our Town consultants will be happy to help you.

Denis Fraine  
Town Administrator



Opt-Out Notice - for National Grid customers

# TOWN OF BELLINGHAM ELECTRICITY PROGRAM NOTIFICATION LETTER

<MONTH> <DAY>, 2017

Dear Bellingham Electricity Service Customer,

This letter contains important information about your electricity bill.

**Bellingham Power Choice** is a new Town program designed to help you save money on electricity and protect you from seasonal utility price swings. Bellingham Power Choice is a municipal electricity aggregation. By bulk-purchasing electricity for the entire community through the program, Bellingham has negotiated a lower rate for the electricity supply portion of your bill than National Grid's Basic Service rate.

**If you received this letter, you will be AUTOMATICALLY enrolled in Bellingham Power Choice, unless you choose not to participate.**

- If you participate: National Grid will deliver your electricity, fix power outages, and bill you, but Bellingham will choose your electricity supplier. Bellingham has negotiated a <XX>-month contract with <SUPPLIER NAME> to supply electricity to Town residents and businesses from <MONTH> <YEAR> meter reads through <MONTH> <YEAR> meter reads.
- If you do not participate: National Grid will continue to choose your electricity supplier.

## PROGRAM BENEFITS

**SAVINGS** - Bellingham has negotiated a fixed price that is below National Grid Basic Service winter rates at program launch. However, National Grid prices change periodically. As a result, the program price will not always be below the National Grid price. The program goal is to deliver savings *when costs are averaged across all <XX> months of the contract.*

**CHOICE** - Bellingham Power Choice gives you two alternatives to National Grid Basic Service: 1) Power Choice Standard, which you will be enrolled in automatically and which meets state renewable energy requirements, and 2) Power Choice Plus, an option that includes a higher percentage of renewable energy (*more information on the back*).

**PREDICTABILITY** - Your electricity supply price will not change before your <MONTH> <YEAR> meter read. Program terms are public. There are no hidden costs.

## YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH NATIONAL GRID

Your primary relationship for electricity will remain with National Grid. Participating in Bellingham Power Choice impacts only your electricity supplier. Beginning with your <MONTH> <YEAR> National Grid bill, you will see <SUPPLIER NAME> printed under Supply Services. Otherwise:

- Your bill will continue to come from National Grid
- You will continue to send bill payments to National Grid
- You will continue to call National Grid if your power goes out

**If you are on a budget plan or are eligible for a low-income delivery rate or fuel assistance, you will continue to receive those benefits.**

## YOUR NEW PRICE FOR ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

▶ <X.XX> ¢/kWh

For all customers:  
residential, small businesses,  
and medium and  
large businesses

Compare to National Grid  
rates on the back. ▶

## QUESTIONS?

- ▶ Visit [www.bellinghamma.org/Pages/powerchoice](http://www.bellinghamma.org/Pages/powerchoice)
- ▶ Call: 1-844-483-5004 or email [bellingham@masspowerchoice.com](mailto:bellingham@masspowerchoice.com) with questions about the program.

## DON'T WANT TO PARTICIPATE?

- ▶ **There is no penalty or fee to opt out of the program, and you may do so at any time.**

Opt out before the program begins: **Before <MONTH> <DATE>, 2017**, sign and return the enclosed postcard or opt out online at [www.bellinghamma.org/Pages/powerchoice](http://www.bellinghamma.org/Pages/powerchoice).

Opt out in the future: Call <SUPPLIER NAME> at <1-800-XXX-XXXX> or opt out online at [www.bellinghamma.org/Pages/powerchoice](http://www.bellinghamma.org/Pages/powerchoice).

If you opt out, you will remain a National Grid Basic Service customer.

*Important information on the back* ▶

## COMPARATIVE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY RATES AND TERMS

All program participants will automatically receive Power Choice Standard. To receive it, you need to do nothing.

As a National Grid Basic Service customer, you will be automatically enrolled.

To choose **Power Choice Plus**, contact <SUPPLIER NAME> at 1-800-XXX-XXXX.

	<b>Power Choice Standard</b>	<b>Optional: Power Choice Plus</b>	<b>National Grid Basic Service</b>
<b>Renewable Energy Content</b>	Meets Massachusetts renewable energy requirements.	<INSERT DETAILS>	Meets Massachusetts renewable energy requirements.
<b>Rate Term</b>	<MONTH> <YEAR> meter read – <MONTH> <YEAR> meter read	<MONTH> <YEAR> meter read – <MONTH> <YEAR> meter read	<MONTH> <DAY>, <YEAR> – <MONTH> <DAY>, <YEAR> **
Residential	X.XX ¢/kWh	XX.XX ¢/kWh	XX.XXX ¢/kWh
Small business	X.XX ¢/kWh	XX.XX ¢/kWh	XX.XXX ¢/kWh
Medium and large business	X.XX ¢/kWh	XX.XX ¢/kWh	XX.XX ¢/kWh (<MONTH> <DAY>, <YEAR> - <MONTH> <DAY>, <YEAR>) **
<b>Exit Terms</b>	Leave any time. No exit charge.	Leave any time. No exit charge.	Leave any time. No exit charge. (Except for medium and large business accounts on National Grid delivery rates G-2 and G-3.)

\* New renewable energy projects are those projects that came into commercial operation after January 1, 1998. The additional new renewable projects incorporated into Power Choice Plus are from <PROJECT TYPE>.

\*\* National Grid's fixed Basic Service rates change every six (6) months for residential and small business accounts and every month for medium and large business accounts.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**WHAT IS ELECTRICITY SUPPLY?** Electricity service has two parts, delivery and supply. Electricity delivery is the process of bringing electricity to you along wires. Electricity supply is the electricity itself. National Grid is responsible for your electricity delivery. In addition, National Grid typically chooses your electricity supplier and passes that cost along to you. This is called National Grid Basic Service. Within Bellingham Power Choice, National Grid will continue to deliver the electricity but will no longer choose the electricity supplier. Instead, Bellingham will choose an electricity supplier for Town residents and businesses through a competitive bid process.

**DO I HAVE TO PARTICIPATE?** You do not have to participate in the program. To opt out before the program begins, sign and return the enclosed postcard before <MONTH> <DATE>, or opt out online at [www.bellinghamma.org/Pages/powerchoice](http://www.bellinghamma.org/Pages/powerchoice).

**I HAVE SIGNED MY OWN CONTRACT WITH AN ELECTRICITY SUPPLIER. WILL I BE AUTOMATICALLY ENROLLED?** If you have already established a contract with a different electricity supplier, you should not be automatically enrolled. If you received this letter but you have an existing electricity supply contract, you should opt out of the program.

**I HAVE SOLAR PANELS ON MY PROPERTY. IF I JOIN, WILL I CONTINUE TO RECEIVE NET METERING CREDITS?** Yes. Net metering will work the same way if you participate in the program. Your net metering credits from your solar panels will continue to appear on your National Grid bill and will continue to be calculated based on National Grid's Basic Service price.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact customer support at [bellingham@masspowerchoice.com](mailto:bellingham@masspowerchoice.com) or 1-844-483-5004. Our Town consultants will be happy to help you.

Denis Fraine  
Town Administrator

**TOWN OF BELLINGHAM**

C/O VENDOR NAME

[STREET ADDRESS]

[CITY], [STATE] 00000-0000



EXHIBIT C  
Opt-Out Envelope

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
CITY, XX  
PERMIT, NO XXXX

**Time-sensitive notice sent on behalf of the Town  
regarding your electricity rates.**





**BELLINGHAM POWER CHOICE  
OPT-OUT REPLY CARD**

**OPT-OUT INSTRUCTIONS**

You do not need to take any action to participate in Bellingham Power Choice.

If you **do not** wish to participate:

1. Sign and date this card.
2. Place the card in the enclosed envelope and drop the envelope in the mail.

This card must be signed by the Customer of Record whose name appears in the address on this card. You must return the card by <MONTH> <DAY>, <YEAR>, to opt out of the program before program launch on <MONTH> <DAY>, <YEAR>.

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date