TO: Lincoln residents
FROM: Lincoln Green Energy Committee
RE: Request for public input re Lincoln Green Energy Choice
DATE: November 16, 2026

Introduction

The Town of Lincoln has announced a request for public comment on a proposed change to the Lincoln Green Energy Choice program[1] as documented in a plan approved by the state ("the Plan"). (That announcement, which was mailed out to residents, can be found here.) As noted in that announcement, comments are invited by the deadline of January 8, 2027.

The Select Board has asked the Lincoln Green Energy Committee ("GEC") to also invite comments on a separate but related question, which is: If and when the Plan is amended as proposed, how should the Town take advantage of the additional flexibility that will then be available? For this public engagement process, we will use the same comment period (November 20, 2026 to January 8, 2027) but will provide additional means of engagement.

Why we are seeking public input now

GEC issued a public update this summer (linked here) that described a change in approach that the GEC was proposing to the Lincoln Green Energy Choice program ("the Program"). Specifically, we stated that due to changes in federal policy and possible state actions as explained below, the effectiveness of buying extra Class I RECs to help mitigate climate change has become less certain. We said that we therefore recommended that the Town consider using the Program to invest more directly in decarbonization projects, instead of buying extra Class 1 RECs. (See that recent public update, linked above, for a more detailed explanation.)

Town decisionmaking after this comment period

For context, the Select Board has approved the following planned sequence of steps:

1. Public comment is invited on the two related questions described above (i.e., (A) amending the state-approved Plan and (B) how to take advantage of the flexibility that amendment would allow).

[1] Lincoln Green Energy Choice, which was instituted by the Town in 2021, is a group electricity purchasing program for Lincoln residents and businesses in the Town of Lincoln. The program gives electricity customers an alternative to Eversource's Basic Service and to other electricity supply offers in the marketplace. Participants receive long-term, stable and historically competitive electricity supply prices. Participants are free to change their tier or even leave the program at any time at no charge, and there are no unexpected rate changes.

2. After that public comment period, the GEC will provide a report and preliminary recommendations to the Select Board.
3. The Select Board then will decide whether to propose a warrant article for the March 2027 Town Meeting that would authorize the Town to create and maintain the financial structure that would facilitate the Town investing directly in decarbonization projects. (This may be a so-called “stabilization fund”.)
4. If the warrant article creating that fund is approved in March, subsequent Town Meeting votes would be required to approve disbursements from the fund for specific decarbonization projects.

Forms of input

You are invited to provide input through any of the following channels:

- Written submission via email to lincolngec01773@gmail.com
- Written submission via mail to Town Clerk, Lincoln Town Hall, 16 Lincoln Road, Lincoln, MA 01773
- Speak at any of the following special meetings of the GEC:
    - November 23, 7 p.m.
    - December 10, 8 a.m.
      For both of these, use the following Zoom link:
      https://zoom.us/j/97519483881?pwd=RDh9mYQvWLuX9iQwXqCbQnkHH6uvzt.1
      Meeting ID: 975 1948 3881; Passcode: GEC

Specific topics for public input

Your comments are invited on any aspect of the above. However, below are some topics for which public input would be particularly helpful; feel free to comment on any or all of these:

1. Should we adopt the amended Plan as proposed?
2. If the Plan is amended as proposed, how should the Town take advantage of the additional flexibility that will then be available?
3. In particular, any thoughts on any of the following questions?
    a. Should our new program act "locally" where we can "see" it, better understand it, improve, and replicate it? If so, how local (i.e., in Lincoln / in MetroWest / in MA / w/in the six states of our regional electric grid / w/in the US)?
    b. Or, should we instead aim for maximum impact on emissions reduction per dollar invested?
    c. If both geographic proximity and cost-effectiveness deserve weight, how should we balance those different considerations?

d. The current Program has focused on reducing CO2e emissions from *generating* electricity. Do you think the new program could also properly consider mitigating climate change through investments to reduce *demand* for electricity (e.g., energy conservation or higher efficiency, in municipal buildings or otherwise)?

e. If you wish, you can fill out the Google Form that includes additional questions here.

f. If you have a specific suggestion, tell us your idea in a paragraph or two. What would you say to Lincoln Town Meeting participants to win their support?