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October 11, 2023

**Cheshire County Community Power Launches**

*Cheshire to lead the state as they become the*

*first County Community Power program in New Hampshire*

**(Keene)** – Cheshire County has become the first county to launch a community power program in New Hampshire. And, as a member of The Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH), the county can now allow towns to join Cheshire Community Power and use a “fast track” approach to adopt the benefits of community power. This fast-track approach eliminates the administrative and regulatory burdens of getting approvals from the Public Utilities Commission and drafting their own electric aggregation plans.

The Towns of Dublin, Fitzwilliam, and Nelson are the first towns to join Cheshire Community Power, and several other towns have indicated that they will join in the near future. Cheshire County’s blueprint has allowed other New Hampshire counties to begin discussions on adopting community power as a benefit to their communities.

Public information sessions will be held in Dublin on October 16, in Nelson on October 17 and in Fitzwilliam on October 19 to explain the process described in a letter sent to all residential ratepayers in those towns this week.

Electricity to power Cheshire County facilities and residences of participating towns will be supplied by CPCNH at a rate of 10.9 cents per kilowatt hour as compared to Eversource's 12.582 cents. Cheshire County facilities and town ratepayers will see the new rates in their December electric bill.

“We are thrilled to be able to bring this increased cost control and savings to our county government. Offering a fast-track approach for the city and towns in our county, will also allow them to enjoy the extensive benefits of community power in a simple and straightforward manner,” explained Cheshire County Commissioner Terry Clark. “Cheshire County was involved in founding CPCNH in 2019, and we have worked alongside Lebanon, Nashua, and Hanover to help pioneer community power for the state. Now, every city and town will be able to reap the benefits that community power is bringing.”

“This is a landmark moment in Community Power.” Said CPCNH CEO Brian Callnan. “Cheshire County has paved the way for their towns to adopt Community Power as easily as it's ever been. This means that the County and each town has the ability to increase their community control, enable greater energy choice, and bring real savings to their ratepayers.”

Community Power, authorized under NH RSA 53-E, democratizes energy governance by empowering towns, cities, and counties to choose where their electricity comes from on behalf of their residents and businesses, work with utilities on local energy infrastructure upgrades, and provide electricity supply rates and services to all customers participating in the program.

The CPCNH takes over as the default electricity provider for their communities. Under community power, electric distribution utilities continue to own and operate the power grid while local communities gain control over where their power is sourced from. Many more New Hampshire towns and cities have begun the process to launch their own programs in the coming months and years. Thirty-nine communities have voted to join [CPCNH](https://mailtrack.io/trace/link/db98bc833b61ffe31f231516f2bbd59715d4b634?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cpcnh.org%2Fabout&userId=1354040&signature=93951d652cec5aaf), representing 24 per cent of all residential electricity sold in New Hampshire, and are currently in the process of launching their own community power programs

Town select boards are urged to contact the county for more information. Electric rate comparison tables can be found at [communitypowernh.gov](http://communitypowernh.gov/).

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