



CITY OF KEENE

DRAFT COMMUNITY POWER PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Keene is working toward being the first community in New Hampshire to launch a Community Power Program under RSA 53-E. The City formed an ad-hoc Community Power Committee to develop a draft Community Power Plan, which is now available for public review. After the public review period, the Committee will approve a final Plan and submit it to the City Council for consideration and adoption. The City and Committee are working with the consulting team of Good Energy and Standard Power to design, launch and manage its Community Power Program.

WHAT IS COMMUNITY POWER?

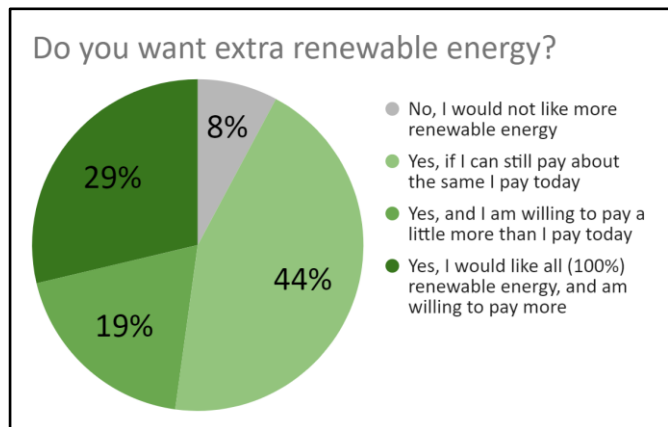
Community Power is a program to create electricity supply choices for Keene residents and businesses with cost and environmental benefits beyond that of the utility Default Service supply. Instead of simply utilizing Eversource's electricity supply, Keene will bundle together the electricity needs of its residents and small businesses and put out a Request for Proposals (RFP) for electricity suppliers to provide the necessary electricity at competitive prices. This type of program is well established in many other states that allow Community Power, and Keene's program will utilize best practices adapted for New Hampshire. With Community Power, the City is able to make strategic decisions about when to solicit bids, lock in fixed pricing for multiple years, and increase renewable energy content above the existing statewide minimum.

Community Power is identified as a key strategy in the Keene Energy Plan for meeting the City's goal of 100% renewable electricity by 2030, and 100% renewable thermal energy and transportation by 2050. Community Power also supports other Energy Plan goals, including promoting equity, energy efficiency, job creation, and climate resilience and preparedness.

DRAFT PLAN DEVELOPMENT

To develop the draft plan, the City and Committee conducted outreach to inform residents and businesses about the program and engage residents in the creation of a plan. The City held a total of four public information sessions on December 8, 2020 and January 26, 2021 to promote awareness of the development of a Community Power Plan and to gather input. The Committee released a community survey that was available online and via paper in the Monadnock Shopper News for one month, and received over 125 responses. The online survey and the City's website

www.KeeneEnergyPlan.com also hosted two educational videos about Community Power. Survey results were used to identify community goals for the Program, principally the strong support for increased renewable energy up to 100% and support for energy supply choices that include a basic option that is cost competitive with the utility default rate.



KEY PLAN ELEMENTS

Electricity Supply Choice

The Program will offer a default electricity supply product that includes extra local renewable energy over the required state minimum, while aiming to provide savings compared to Eversource’s Default Service supply. Upon launch, the Program expects to include 5-10% extra local renewable energy in its default product. The Program will explore a range of strategies to increase this percentage while maintaining competitive rates. As shown below, the program will offer optional products in addition to the default:

	Default Product (Automatic enrollment)	Optional Products		
Product Name	Keene Local Green	Keene Basic	Keene 50% Local Green	Keene 100% Local Green
Product Goals	Increase renewable energy use while maintaining competitive rates	Most competitive rate (no increase in renewable energy use)	Significant increase in renewable energy use (e.g. 50%)	Largest increase in renewable energy use (e.g. 100%)

Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency

Extra renewable energy for the Program will come from local renewable resources and regional Class I renewable energy credits, with emphasis on New Hampshire based resources. This policy aligns with the EPA’s definition of green renewable energy and the Keene Energy Plan.

- The Program will seek to offer net metering benefits equal to or better than Eversource, and will communicate any differences so net metering customers can make an informed choice.
- The Program will support energy efficiency programs and initiatives, initially through utility-supported programs like NHSaves, but will also explore more direct opportunities.

Participation

The Program will be open to any Keene electricity consumer. Anyone currently receiving Eversource Default Service electricity supply will be eligible for automatic enrollment in the default supply product of Keene Community Power. Prior to program launch, there will be a comprehensive education and outreach effort to make residents and businesses aware of the program, their options and how to participate or not, i.e. opt out and remain on Eversource Default Service supply.

- Participants may also change products or leave the program at any time with no penalty.
- The Plan allows for the City of Keene to partner with other communities also pursuing similar goals with Community Power.

Customer Experience

Electric customers will continue to get one bill from Eversource for all electricity charges. Customers will continue to contact Eversource for all outages and all electricity delivery related issues and questions.

- The supply portion of a customer’s bill will change to reflect participation in the Keene Program.
- Electric Assistance Program (EAP) participants will continue to receive their discount.

Review the full draft Plan and follow the progress of the Program by joining the City’s email list for Community Power and/or going to the dedicated website: www.KeeneCommunityPower.com.