

# Rye Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

3:00 PM

Town Hall

## 1. Attendance

Carl Nicolino, Howard Kalet, Tom Pfau, Frank Melanson, Lisa Sweet;  
guest: Katrin Casper, Clean Energy New Hampshire Seacoast Circuit Rider

## 2. December meeting minutes

Approved unanimously

## 3. Community Power update

Lisa shared the new Rye Community Power rates that will begin on February 1. The rate will take effect with your meter reading date in February, so you should see the new rate on your March bill. **The Granite Basic rate (which is RCP's default rate) is 8.1¢/kWh and contains the minimum requirement of renewable energy at 24.3%. This is the lowest default rate in NH, beating the 3 investor-owned utilities as well as the NH Electric Coop.**

Eversource's default rate for the upcoming rate period is 8.285¢/kWh. This rate was possible because Eversource Default Energy Service customers benefit from a 1.5 ¢ per kilowatt-hour credit due to an over collection of rates last year (a prior year reconciliation). The Coalition can beat this artificially low rate for all NH residential ratepayers while covering all our costs and accumulating financial reserves on behalf of our operating Member CPAs.

However, on Eversource's Class GV rate, the variable rate for commercial or industrial customers with demands not exceeding 1,000 kW, Eversource under collected during the last rate period and therefore needs to add 1.5¢/kWh to that rate. **Therefore, the RCP savings in this rate class are over 30% off the Eversource rate.** The Rye Energy Committee discussed reaching out to small businesses to make sure they are aware of the savings.

The Coalition hopes to develop a longer-term rate for those that would like to lock in for longer than 6 months.

Please see attached rate table. All information is available at [www.communitypowernh.gov/Rye](http://www.communitypowernh.gov/Rye). If you would like to opt-in, opt-out, or choose a different rate product, you can do so by visiting the website, or by calling the customer service number: 1-866-603-POWR (7697).

#### **4. Breakfast Hill solar project update**

Tom met with BOS in non-public session to explain why this array would benefit the town. A developer has proposed an array and the town either needs to buy property or a developer needs to come to an agreement with the current landowner. The family will only sell to the town due to liability issues and the town and family have been discussing what is a fair price for the property. The Rye Town Administrator will consult with Exeter to compare notes on developing a municipal array.

Exeter voters approved the development of a solar array to provide clean, locally sourced energy 3 years ago. Due to the pandemic, the development was delayed and costs had increased, while the Inflation Reduction Act will provide more incentives. With this new information, voters approved the project again last year and installation will begin this year. The array should begin providing power in 2025. The project is expected to be cash neutral early on and then produce revenue for Exeter. The long-term energy cost is expected to be 11¢/kWh.

It was suggested at the BOS session that a study committee be formed to determine the best use of the BH landfill. Tom suggested that REC propose a more general study committee to evaluate a community solar array. Later, we will submit a letter to BOS to request they establish a committee. The hope is to prepare a warrant article for 2025 asking voters whether to approve a community solar project.

#### **5. Building code**

No new information on that – the request was for builders to supply a report from certified home rater that says that house passes the current NH code building code for energy efficiency. The Rules and Regulations committee asked that REC work with the building inspector to adopt wording encouraging builders to verify code compliance.

## **6. Civic Fest & Master Plan Community Forum**

Tom will revise the current draft of Master Plan Energy section; committee will suggest and edit collaboratively. Community Forum for the Master Plan is on February 15th.

Civic Fest is February 3rd immediately after the Deliberative Session. We will have a table and have info on Rye Community Power, Opt-up materials, possibly the value of community solar, and NH Saves.

## **7. New Business**

NH Saves is all set for the next 3-year cycle as plan was approved by PUC. This time it will function as a 3-year budget rather than three 1-year budgets which will make the program more flexible to run.

Anyone who applies for a home energy audit will get one. You will need to go through the same process, but you no longer need to have high fuel use to qualify.

The Home Performance with Energy Star program will change name to Home Energy Performance (same program, different name).

Next Meeting – 2/13 at Town Hall



# COMMUNITY POWER RATES

Effective February 1 — July 31, 2024

## Electricity Supply Rates for Residential, General Service, and Outdoor Lighting Customers

Power Options		Renewable Content	Rate (¢/kWh)	Estimated Cost per Month*
Utility Default Energy Service	Unitil <sup>†</sup>	24.3%	10.718 ¢	~ \$70
	NH Electric Co-op <sup>†</sup>		10.161 ¢	~ \$66
	Liberty Utilities <sup>†</sup>		9.758 ¢	~ \$63
	Eversource <sup>†</sup>		8.285 ¢	~ \$54
Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire	Clean 100	100%	12.4 ¢	~ \$81
	Clean 50	50%	9.4 ¢	~ \$61
	Granite Plus	33%	8.4 ¢	~ \$55
	Granite Basic <sup>‡</sup>	24.3%	8.1 ¢	~ \$53

\* Estimated cost per month based on average residential usage of 650 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per month.

<sup>†</sup> CPCNH's Granite Basic is a savings of 24% off Unitil's residential rate, 20% off NH Electric Co-op's, 17% off Liberty's, and 2% off Eversource's.

<sup>‡</sup> Community Power Aggregations (CPAs) may offer either Granite Basic or Granite Plus as their default power option. Check your community's page at [www.CommunityPowerNH.gov](http://www.CommunityPowerNH.gov) for details specific to your program.

## Electricity Supply Rates for Customers with Monthly Variable Rates

	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	*Avg.
Eversource Class GV Rate	18.173 ¢	12.061 ¢	9.495 ¢	9.004 ¢	9.443 ¢	11.602 ¢	11.835 ¢
Community Power (Clean 100)	19.00 ¢	12.60 ¢	9.90 ¢	9.40 ¢	9.90 ¢	12.20 ¢	12.40 ¢
Community Power (Clean 50)	14.40 ¢	9.60 ¢	7.50 ¢	7.20 ¢	7.50 ¢	9.20 ¢	9.40 ¢
Community Power (Granite Plus)	12.90 ¢	8.60 ¢	6.70 ¢	6.40 ¢	6.70 ¢	8.20 ¢	8.40 ¢
Community Power (Granite Basic)	12.40 ¢	8.30 ¢	6.50 ¢	6.20 ¢	6.50 ¢	7.90 ¢	8.10 ¢

Granite Basic offers a 32-33% savings off of Eversource's rate.

\*Load weighted average

	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	*Avg.
Liberty Utilities Class G1 & G2	14.101 ¢	8.671 ¢	6.629 ¢	5.931 ¢	8.073 ¢	9.854 ¢	8.815 ¢
Community Power (Clean 100)	19.80 ¢	12.20 ¢	9.30 ¢	8.30 ¢	11.40 ¢	13.90 ¢	12.40 ¢
Community Power (Clean 50)	15.00 ¢	9.20 ¢	7.10 ¢	6.30 ¢	8.60 ¢	10.50 ¢	9.40 ¢
Community Power (Granite Plus)	13.40 ¢	8.30 ¢	6.30 ¢	5.70 ¢	7.70 ¢	9.40 ¢	8.40 ¢
Community Power (Granite Basic)	13.00 ¢	8.00 ¢	6.10 ¢	5.40 ¢	7.40 ¢	9.10 ¢	8.10 ¢

Granite Basic offers an 8-9% savings off of Liberty Utilities' rate.

\*Load weighted average

	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	*Avg.
Unitil Non-G1 General Service	15.668 ¢	10.118 ¢	8.077 ¢	7.760 ¢	7.989 ¢	9.962 ¢	10.038 ¢
Community Power (Clean 100)	19.40 ¢	12.50 ¢	10.00 ¢	9.60 ¢	9.90 ¢	12.30 ¢	12.40 ¢
Community Power (Clean 50)	14.70 ¢	9.50 ¢	7.60 ¢	7.30 ¢	7.50 ¢	9.30 ¢	9.40 ¢
Community Power (Granite Plus)	13.10 ¢	8.50 ¢	6.80 ¢	6.50 ¢	6.70 ¢	8.30 ¢	8.40 ¢
Community Power (Granite Basic)	12.60 ¢	8.20 ¢	6.50 ¢	6.30 ¢	6.40 ¢	8.00 ¢	8.10 ¢

Granite Basic offers a 19-20% savings off of Unitil's rate.

\*Load weighted average

	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	*Avg.
Unitil Domestic Service	16.165 ¢	10.508 ¢	8.616 ¢	8.303 ¢	8.554 ¢	10.691 ¢	10.718 ¢
Community Power (Clean 100)	18.70 ¢	12.20 ¢	10.00 ¢	9.60 ¢	9.90 ¢	12.40 ¢	12.40 ¢
Community Power (Clean 50)	14.20 ¢	9.20 ¢	7.60 ¢	7.30 ¢	7.50 ¢	9.40 ¢	9.40 ¢
Community Power (Granite Plus)	12.70 ¢	8.20 ¢	6.80 ¢	6.50 ¢	6.70 ¢	8.40 ¢	8.40 ¢
Community Power (Granite Basic)	12.20 ¢	7.90 ¢	6.50 ¢	6.30 ¢	6.50 ¢	8.10 ¢	8.10 ¢

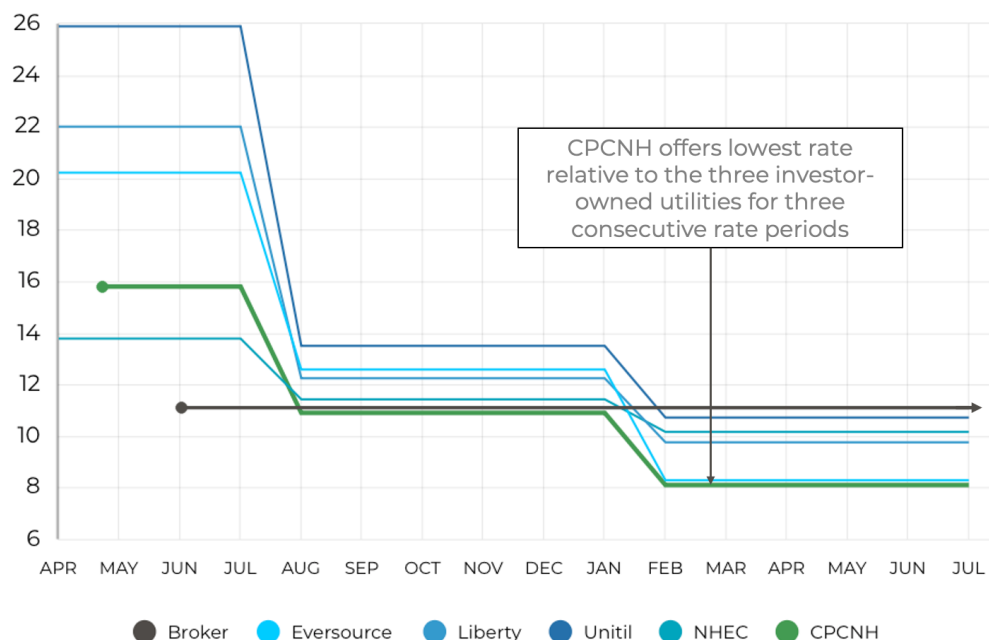
Granite Basic offers a 24-25% savings off of Unitil's rate.

\*Load weighted average

The Coalition continues to offer the lowest residential energy supply rates in New Hampshire and out-perform energy service from investor-owned utilities for three consecutive rate periods.

The present downturn in electricity prices highlights the risk associated with a single multi-year brokered supply contract, which in this case has been undercut by utility rates.

### Comparing Utility, Broker, and Coalition Rates Over Time



*The broker example in this chart is fixed through December 2025.*

As market conditions adjust, the Coalition demonstrates several key advantages to competing models from utility- or broker-administered default supply.

- ✓ The Coalition's active portfolio management of wholesale power contracts enables the flexibility to respond to changing market conditions.
- ✓ Our locally controlled and transparent process for setting rates continues to realize savings for customers.
- ✓ Through our nonprofit structure, net revenues are deposited into financial reserve accounts to ensure long-term stability and benefits for Member communities.

**Coalition Member Cities, Towns, and Counties**

Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire is a nonprofit power agency established as a governmental instrumentality and formed by over fifty New Hampshire cities, towns, and counties participating as Members. Our rates are set by our Board of Directors which is elected by the Membership.

