

Rye Community Power Electric Aggregation Plan Summary

The Rye Electric Aggregation Plan sets forth Rye's goals for its Community Power program, details Rye Community Power's program design and implementation process, and commits Rye Community Power to comply with applicable statute and regulation in terms of:

- Adhering to all legal requirements just as Eversource does (i.e. provide universal access, reliability, and equitable treatment of all classes of customers subject to any differences arising from varying opportunities, tariffs, and arrangements in distribution franchise territory), and
- Meeting, at a minimum, the basic environmental and service standards established by the Public Utilities Commission and other applicable agencies and laws concerning the provision of service under Community Power.

The plan does not otherwise commit Rye Community Power to any defined course of action and does not impose any financial commitment on the Town.

Community Power offers features that households and businesses should appreciate:

- Program participation is optional
- Program is self-funded
- Competitive rates
- More renewable energy at affordable cost
- Long-term funding for local resiliency projects and programs

Rye Community Power is a program to provide electric power supply and services for residents, businesses, and other entities in the town of Rye. Community Power programs pool, or aggregate, the demand of all customers in a community and purchase electric power on behalf of the whole community with the goal of lowering costs and expanding access to renewable energy and other innovations. Community Power programs are made possible by New Hampshire's updated Community Power law RSA 53-E. See Attachment 1 of the Electric Aggregation Plan: Legislative Background and Local Control Authorities for more detailed information on the legislation.

The Rye Energy Committee began studying Community Power in June 2020. On September 27, 2021, the Rye Select Board authorized the Rye Energy Committee act as the Energy Aggregation Committee (herein referred to as Rye Energy Committee) to develop an Energy Aggregation Plan for Rye and a warrant article. This warrant article will be voted on March 8, 2022 after two Public Hearings have been held for community engagement and input. See Attachment 7: Rye's Public Planning Process.

The Rye Select Board approved joining the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH) as one of 14 founding members. CPCNH is a non-profit joint powers agency which will help members develop Community Power plans. If Rye voters approve Community Power, the CPCNH would provide electricity procurement, shared staff and services, and public advocacy. This will be determined by the Select Board with advisory support from the Rye Energy Committee. See Attachment 2: The Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire for more information.

The goals for Rye Community Power (RCP) include:

- **Competitive Rates & Choices** that must meet or beat those offered by Eversource at launch, plus choices regarding the supply of renewable energy and affordable rates;
- **Fiscal Stability & Financial Reserves** to ensure the program is able to maintain competitive rates over time and advance the Town's policy goals over the long-term;
- **Consumer Protections** to ensure contracts entered into are fair, and to represent the Town's interests on energy issues at the Legislature and Public Utilities Commission;
- **Community Resiliency** programs to reduce energy consumption, lower bills, create jobs, and pursue longer-term projects such as building local back-up power supplies; and
- **Cleaner Power** to supply an affordable energy portfolio that prioritizes the use of cost effective local renewable energy.

Adoption of the plan on March 8, 2022, by a majority of those present and voting, would establish Rye Community Power as an approved aggregation with statutory authorities defined under RSA 53-E:3 (to be exercised with due oversight and local governance, as described herein).

After adoption by the Town of Rye voters, this plan will be reviewed by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) in order to formally notify the PUC that the Town is planning to launch a Community Power program and to authorize the Town to request access to additional customer data from Eversource that will be needed for program implementation. All customer confidentiality will be protected by applicable laws as stated herein.

Rye anticipates relying upon CPCNH's member services to launch and operate Rye Community Power, but approval of this plan does not commit the Town to doing so. The Rye Select Board retains the authority to contract for any and all required program services and electricity supplies, and to pursue projects independently of CPCNH. Future decisions regarding how to implement and manage Rye Community Power will be made by the Select Board, in coordination with advisory support from the Rye Energy Committee, at duly noticed public meetings. If voters approve this Electric Aggregation Plan:

- Eversource will continue to deliver electricity to customers, and to own and operate the local distribution system (poles, wires, transformers, sub-stations, etc.).
- The Select Board, with advisory support from the Rye Energy Committee, will be authorized to contract for the necessary professional services and power supplies to launch RCP.
- Participation in Community Power is completely voluntary. After the electricity rates are established, all customers not already on competitive supply will be notified and automatically enrolled, unless they choose to opt-out and stay with Eversource for electricity supply. All customers on competitive supply may choose to opt-in to Rye Community Power.

For more information, go to the Rye Community Power webpage at: <https://tinyurl.com/ryenhcp> or email the Rye Energy Committee at ryenhec@gmail.com