

**TOWN OF ALLENSTOWN**  
**Community Power Aggregation Committee**  
**16 School Street**  
**Allenstown, New Hampshire 03275**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 24, 2023**

**Call to Order**

The Allenstown Community Power Aggregation Committee Meeting of January 24, 2023 was called to order by Chair Scott McDonald at 12:04 pm. Chair McDonald called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Note: This meeting was rescheduled from Monday, January 23, 2023 to Tuesday January 24, 2023 due to inclement weather and the closure of the Allenstown Town Hall.

**Roll Call**

Present on the Board: Scott McDonald, Derik Goodine, Brian Arsenault, Veronica Anaya, Ryan Mahoney, Jim Rodger, and Stephen LaPorte.

Excused: Ron Adinolfo

Residents of Allenstown: N/A

Others present: Robert Hayden, Standard Power  
Mike O'Meara – Volunteer Administration

Public Officials: None

**Old Business**

- None.

**New Business**

- Public Hearing – Session #1

Prior to the public hearing, it was confirmed that two public sessions were required, one of which was satisfied by the 12:00 PM session, and the second of which was satisfied by the 6:00 PM session as part of the Select Board regular meeting. Mr. Hayden also stated that the slide presentation provided by his company answered the most commonly asked questions about the Community Power Program.

Chair McDonald opened Session #1 of the Public Hearing at 12:12 PM

Mr. Arsenault led a page-by-page review and discussion of the Slide Presentation that was previously provided by Standard Power (attached for reference as Attachment I and forming part of these Meeting Minutes). The presentation was comprised of fifteen (15) pages and covered the following topics:

- Committee Mission Statement (also posted on the Committee Page on the Town Website)
- A description of the elements that comprise Community Power
- Securing Competitive Pricing (with example)
- Program choices and markets for Local Renewable Energy
- Benefits of the program
- Consumer Choices
- Review of the Community Power Survey results as of the date of the meeting (ongoing)
- Product Options in the program (with example)
- An outline of the Allenstown Community Power Plan (also posted on the Town Website), and
- An outline of the Allenstown Community Power Timeline for 2023.

There was a question about what defines a small business. Mr. Hayden explained that it is the type of electric meter, either a type R (residential) or type G (small business) meter. Mr. Hayden also explained that only consumers with R & G meters that do not already have third-party supply are eligible for the program.

Regarding Consumer Choices, Mr. Arsenault had a question about participation and queried Mr. Hayden about all Default Utility (not third-party) customers being automatically opted-in to the program with the option to opt-out. Mr. Hayden advised of the benefit of participation, but also stated that there could be a possibility where the program might start out lower than the Default Utility, but that the program would only be launched if there were significant cost savings.

Regarding the Community Power Survey, Mr. O'Meara clarified that the data reflected the initial online responses to the survey and that it would be updated with the additional hard-copy responses that were provided to Mr. Hayden at the meeting, and any other responses that would be received.

Regarding the Community Power Plan, Mr. Goodine had a question on Net-Metering. Using the Allenstown Fire Dept. (who have solar panels) as an example, Mr. Goodine asked if they could participate in the program for any additional energy that they needed to purchase. Mr. Hayden answered in the affirmative but advised that if they do not purchase any electricity during the year it would be more beneficial to them to stay with their current provider as the valuation to them of their net excess would be a greater number due to the higher Default Utility rate versus the lower program rate. Mr. Hayden stated that Standard Power would be happy to help with reviewing this if the Town provided additional information, but that is outside the Community Power Program as it is a Municipal matter.

Regarding the Timeline, Mr. O'Meara clarified with Mr. Hayden that if the March 2023 Town Meeting does not approve the program, then it suspends, but could be revived and be brought before a future Town Meeting.

Mr. Arsenault also clarified with Mr. Hayden that in anticipation of approval, Standard Power could initiate submission to the PUC prior to the Town Meeting, which would provide an opportunity for a May or June, 2023 program launch should be the program be approved by town residents.

Mr. Goodine asked Mr. Hayden to explain how a consumer would be reimbursed or credited if they were mistakenly switched from a lower rate third-party provider to a potentially higher rate in the Community Power Program. Mr. Hayden advised that what is known as "slamming" is highly illegal and highly regulated, and that there is no intent to do that with the program. Mr. Hayden explained that when data is obtained from the utility, it indicates everybody that is on third-party supply and that those consumers are not eligible for the plan. He further explained that for the R and G meters, if they have a third-party contract with any other provider, that are not eligible. Mr. Hayden advised that "slamming" is an onerous thing that occurs occasionally in the marketplace and normally the PUC drops the license of any entity that has a clear record of slamming.

Mr. Goodine clarified with Mr. Hayden that eligible consumers would receive one type of notification and consumers with third-party supply would receive a different notification that advises them that if they choose to join the program, they would be eligible the next month, or they would be eligible to join the program the next month after their contract with the third-party supplier expires, once the flag in the Default Provider system (Eversource) indicates that they are no longer served by that provider. It was further clarified by Mr. Hayden that it starts with the robust nature of the Eversource data, and that third-party suppliers are very careful about even considering serving someone who is not eligible because that is considered slamming and they could lose their license in NH. Mr. Hayden stated that in the highly unlikely situation where both mistakes happen, the utility will be more than happy to correct their mistake, and the third-party supplier is very happy to make the client whole. Mr. Hayden further advised that the process is clearly set up not to have those problems and that in his history with Standard Power,

they have never had that problem occur. Mr. Hayden also advised that he has seen it externally on occasion but that the PUC quickly takes care of it.

Mr. Goodine further asked about restoring a consumer to their prior rate if such a problem occurred, and Mr. Hayden advised that while this is a supplier issue, the supplier would want to (although he cannot guarantee) make them whole because the supplier would not want to be brought before the PUC for slamming because they could lose their license, and that they want to follow all rules and laws to maintain their good standing. Mr. Goodine also clarified with Mr. Hayden that it would be up to the provider and not the town to correct any problem that might occur.

Mr. Hayden next expanded on the meaning of the “Manage + Monitor” tenant of the Timeline by explaining that the hope is that communities like Allenstown will be living entities that will be interested in being involved in the Community Power Program into the future. Mr. Hayden advised that there will be evolutions to these plans and benefits, and to the demographics of the community. He stated that Standard Power believes that it is important to keep a committee, whether it be the current committee or another committee, available to look at what the future holds, which might include other types of energy improvement or energy support programs going forward.

Mr. Goodine also spoke about the existing relationship of Allenstown with Standard Power outside of the Community Power Program. Mr. Hayden also discussed other entities in NH who are involved with similar programs. Mr. Hayden also explained how there is no cost to the Town for this program and that Standard Power has also teamed up with Good Energy as they have extensive knowledge in this area. Mr. Hayden also mentioned that Standard Power has already requested data from the PUC for four (4) other towns in NH and that processing is moving along, and they will have pricing for an April or May start for those communities. Another 7-10 Towns (incl. Allenstown) may be eligible to start in May or June, depending on the Town Meeting, and the expectation is to make available the best savings possible while making available renewable energy.

Chair McDonald asked Mr. Hayden to review the different aggregation clients outlined on page 15 of the Standard Power presentation. Mr. Hayden explained about the current active programs in MA and RI and that the shades of Green on the map indicate clients that have made some type of move to have a “greener” product, while those indicated in Blue have not. Chair McDonald also asked about sources of renewable energy which Mr. Hayden further explained, for example the Hydro Plant on Canal Street, and the Solar Installation at the Fire Station, whereas other towns are considering larger scale “Solar Farms” to generate power, which could potentially be used locally first.

None of the Committee members had any further questions, and there being no members of the public present from which to solicit additional input, Chair McDonald closed the Public Hearing portion of the meeting at 12:47 PM.

- Public Hearing – Session #2 (conducted as part of the rescheduled Select Board Meeting of Jan 24, 2023)

In addition to members of the Select Board and the Town Administrator that were attending the scheduled Select Board meeting, the following individuals were present at the hearing:

Residents of Allenstown: Diane Adinolfo

Ron Adinolfo, Power Aggregation Committee Member

Ryan Mahoney, Power Aggregation Committee Member

Brian Arsenault, BI & CEO (remote & alone)

Jeff Gardner, Captain AFD (remote & alone)

Michael O’Meara

Others present: Theresa MacDowell – Standard Power (remote & alone)

Public Officials: None

Chair McDonald opened Session #2 of the Public Hearing at 06:10 PM

Mr. Arsenault again led a page-by-page review and discussion of the Slide Presentation that was previously provided by Standard Power (attached for reference as Attachment I and forming part of these Meeting Minutes). The presentation was comprised of fifteen (15) pages and covered the same topics as discussed in Session #1.

Regarding Consumer Choices, Mr. Goodine invited Mr. Adinolfo to express a concern he had raised (specifically, regarding how data is collected to show who is on which supplier) at a prior Community Power Aggregation Committee meeting about a consumer being inadvertently or mistakenly switched from their current third-party provider to the Community Power Plan, and who is responsible for correcting such an event and how is it handled? Mr. Arsenault provided a response by explaining what had been discussed by Mr. Hayden of Standard Power at Public Hearing Session #1 about this matter. Mr. Arsenault explained that two mistakes would have to occur for a local resident to lose their program and that it is highly unlikely that both mistakes would happen. If it were to occur, the utility would be quick to reinstate the consumer with their third-party provider.

Ms. MacDowell also advised that the Default Utility (Eversource) has to maintain clean and accurate data to bill customers and would have to constitute an error from Eversource for this to occur. Ms. MacDowell again reiterated that this has never happened during Standard Power's experience with these programs.

Mr. O'Meara also commented that switching a consumer without their authorization is considered "slamming" which is illegal in NH and most other states, and that utility companies can face fines for that practice. He also commented that utility companies have a vested interest in correcting this should it occur as affected consumers can also petition the PUC, who takes a dim view of such events. Consequently, utility companies take great care to ensure their data is correct.

Ms. Adinolfo inquired about the timeframe that Standard Power has had experience with these programs and Mr. O'Meara advised going back to 2013. It was also mentioned that it was in the best interest of utility companies to honor any prior rate as they could be subject to PUC action for slamming.

It was again confirmed that Default Utility and Third-Party customers would receive different notifications and in response to a question from Mr. Adinolfo, Mr. O'Meara stated that the content of those notifications would be one of the next items worked on by the Community Power Committee, in conjunction with Standard Power.

Ms. Adinolfo asked a clarifying question regarding the two mistakes that would have to occur for a consumer to be mistakenly switched from their third-party provided to the Community Power Plan. Mr. O'Meara advised that both the data from the Default Utility (Eversource) would have to be incorrect and the individual would have to be switched without their approval.

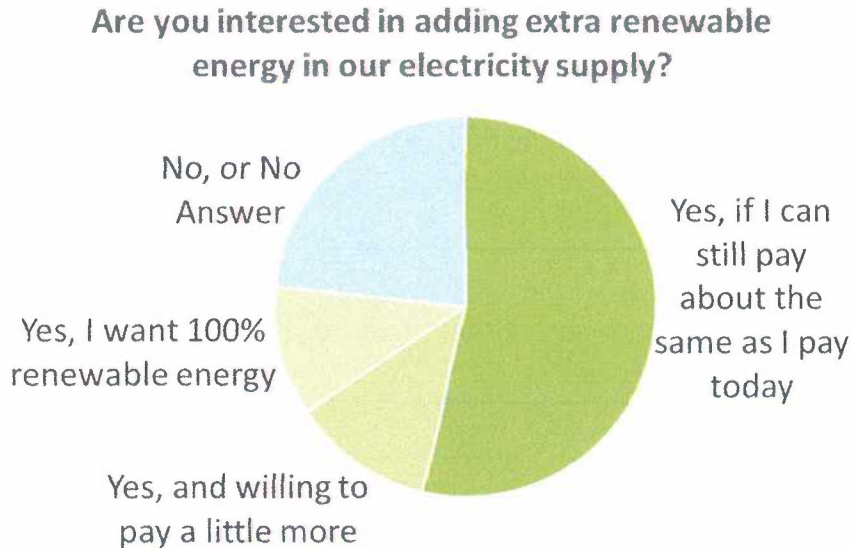
Regarding the Community Survey, Mr. O'Meara advised those present that the current information represented 26 responses with another 16 hard-copy responses provided to Standard Power prior to Public Hearing Session #1, that would be added to the data, and that the chart would be updated as additional survey responses are gathered.

Ms. Adinolfo asked a question to clarify that approval of the Community Power Plan will be on the Town Ballot. Mr. Goodine read the proposed ballot language for those present at the hearing.

There being no further questions, comments or discussion, Chair McDonald closed Public Hearing Session #2 on the Community Power Plan at 6:34 PM.

- Update on the Community Power Survey

As of the date of the meeting, approx. 26 replies had been received on the survey. The breakdown of those replies were included in the Standard Power presentation as part of the Public Hearings, and contained a breakdown of responses as follows:



An additional sixteen (16) hard-copy survey responses were collected and provided to Standard Power at the meetings, which will be included, and the survey results will be updated to reflect that data.

### **Unapproved Minutes**

- **January 10, 2023**

Brian Arsenault made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2023 meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Stephen Laporte.

Roll Call Vote was taken:

Scott McDonald- Aye, Veronica Anaya- Aye, Brian Arsenault- Aye, Derik Goodine- Aye, Stephen LaPorte- Aye, Jim Rodger- Aye, and Ryan Mahoney- Aye.

The motion passed and the minutes for January 10, 2023 were approved as written.

### **Correspondence or Other Business**

- Mr. Arsenault wanted the Committee to be aware that the new school is going to have Solar Panels on their roof, but this is not going to reduce their electricity costs to zero. Mr. Arsenault questioned why additional ground mounted Solar Panels could not be placed on that parcel of land to offset the electricity demand of the new school. He stated that the school administration had considered it and will consider it again, but wanted to first get the school built and Solar Arrays mounted on the roof, but might have a Solar Field in the future. He stated that there are some wetlands concerns, and asked Mr. Hayden if he was aware of any favorable State positions regarding the placing of Solar Farms in wetlands in NH.
- Mr. Hayden was not aware of any, but advised that recent IRA Bill that was passed changes the paradigm for schools and towns regarding solar, and historically the federal tax credit was of no use to a community but the IRA Bill changed the language to include a direct-pay of 30% to

schools and towns. The 30% that industry previously enjoyed as a tax credit is now available as a direct-pay to the community.

- Mr. Goodine raised the matter of Solar Power in Allenstown and asked about the current Zoning Ordinance regarding Solar Installations and inquired about small vs large scale solar siting in town. Mr. Goodine discussed the possibility of private companies siting solar farms in town and the availability of close to one hundred acres of land, both private and municipally owned, for such projects.

Mr. Goodine had a question on whether solar was taxable if owned by a private party as many are leasing the land for their sites and is wondering about doing the same or similar in Allenstown, while recognizing that there are zoning matters to work through, including presenting proposals to a future Town Meeting and addressing residents' concerns about the use of land for such purposes. Mr. Goodine asked Mr. Hayden if he had contact with companies that do that or what is the best way for a community to approach such projects.

Mr. Hayden commented that there are a few different questions and addressed Standard Power's position that they have a great belief in renewable energy and want to see more renewables in NH. He stated that Standard Power is not a solar developer, but offers consultations to every client on what they want to do in the renewable arena. He stated that they administer group net-metering of plans to include Hydro and Solar and sometimes do grant writing for the Hydro side. He stated that it is important that Standard Power not be connected to any specific developer nor does the company profit or accept any remuneration of any kind from developers, but will work in a consulting fashion with a community.

Regarding laws in the community, Mr. Hayden advised that the taxation of solar is up to the community on a town-by-town basis. He does not believe it is subject to state law, rather community law.

Mr. Hayden stated that although they have relationships with solar developers, they can be tenuous at times because Standard Power is trying to make them compete with other developers.

There was further general discussion on the scale and benefits of solar energy to Allenstown, and Mr. O'Meara confirmed that current zoning regulations only permitted small-scale solar installations that directly benefited the property on which they were installed, and advised that a zoning ordinance change would be required to permit and regulate large-scale solar siting in the community, which would in turn require submission and approval at Town Meeting in 2024 at the earliest.

### **Scheduling of Next Meeting**

After asking why the meeting was scheduled for Monday instead of Tuesday (originally rescheduled to accommodate a Committee Member who had a prior work commitment for that date & time), Mr. Arsenault proposed and made a motion that the next meeting of the Committee, originally scheduled for Monday, Jan 30, 2023 be rescheduled to Tues Jan 31, 2023 at 12:00 PM. Mr. Laporte seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote was taken:

Scott McDonald- Aye, Veronica Anaya- Aye, Brian Arsenault- Aye, Derik Goodine- Aye, Stephen LaPorte- Aye, Jim Rodger- Aye, and Ryan Mahoney- Aye.

The Motion passed, and the next meeting of the Committee was scheduled for Tuesday, Jan 31, 2023 at 12:00 PM.

**Adjourn**

Brian Arsenault made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Scott McDonald.





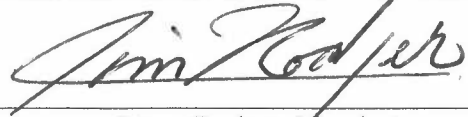
Roll Call Vote was taken:

Scott McDonald- Aye, Veronica Anaya- Aye, Brian Arsenault- Aye, Derik Goodine- Aye, Stephen LaPorte- Aye, Jim Rodger- Aye, and Ryan Mahoney- Aye.

The Motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 01:16 PM.



**SIGNATURE PAGE**  
**Allenstown Community Power Aggregation Committee**  
**January 24, 2023**

Approval:	
 Scott McDonald, Chair	1/31/2023 Date
EXCUSED Ron Adinolfo, Vice Chair	N/A Date
 Veronica Anaya, Member	1/31/2023 Date
 Brian Arsenault, Member	1/31/23 Date
 Derik Goodine, Member	1/31/23 Date
EXCUSED Stephen LaPorte, Member	N/A Date
EXCUSED Ryan Mahoney, Member	N/A Date
 James Rodger, Member	1/34/2024 Date



# **ATTACHMENT I**

**For**

**Allenstown Community Power Aggregation  
Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Slide Presentation on Community Power Plan**

**At**

**Public Hearings on January 24, 2023**

# Allenstown Community Power



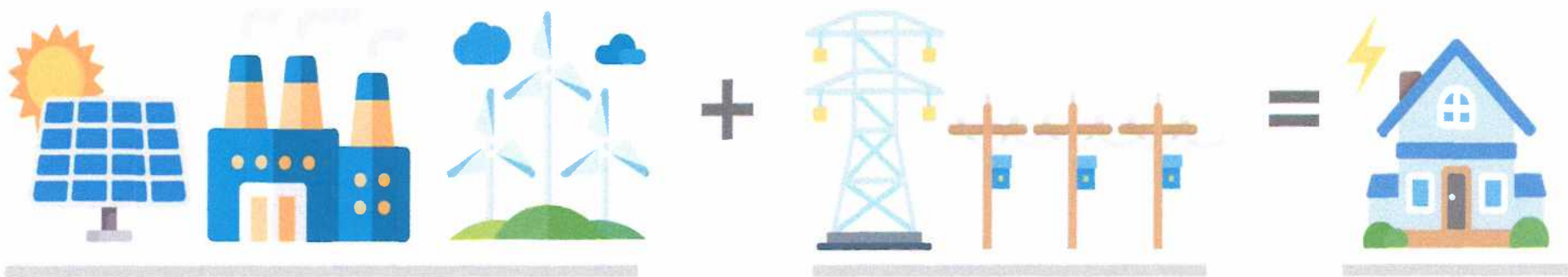
Public Hearings  
January 23, 2023

# Community Power Aggregation Committee

***Mission Statement: “To provide the best electricity value for the citizens of Allentown while providing choices in renewable energy”***



# What is Community Power?



## Supply

Sources of electricity

You can choose

## Delivery

Wires and poles

Always the utility

## Customer

Single Bill

**Municipality purchases electricity supply for residents and small businesses.**

**Goals are cost savings and more renewable energy.**

**Delivery, emergency services, and billing all stay with the utility.**

# Secure Competitive Pricing

## Market Timing



Utilities have little flexibility on when to purchase power or how long to lock in. Community Power has complete flexibility.

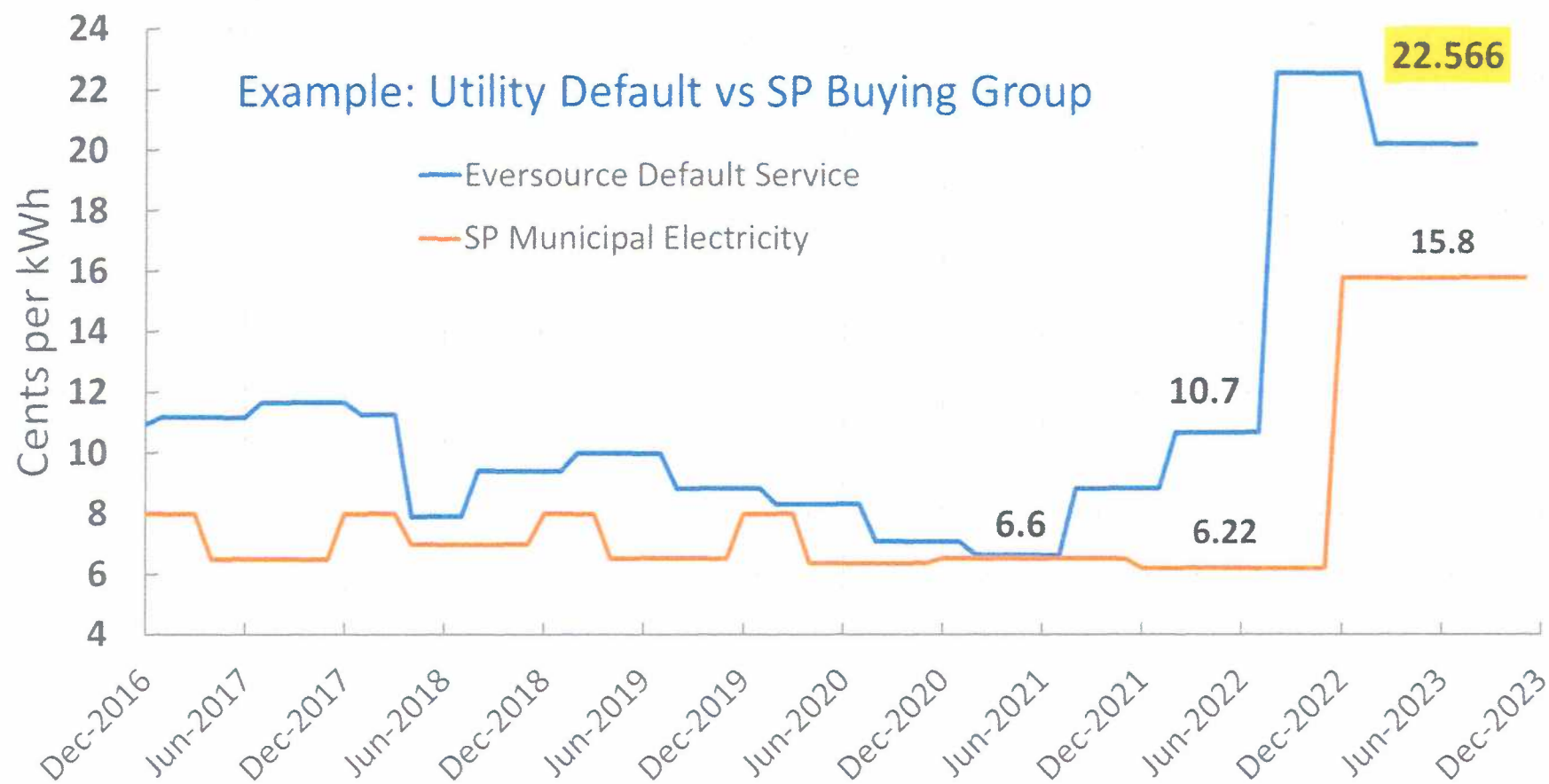


## Buying Power



By pooling demand across the entire municipality, we generate significant buying power. We can even team up with other municipalities.

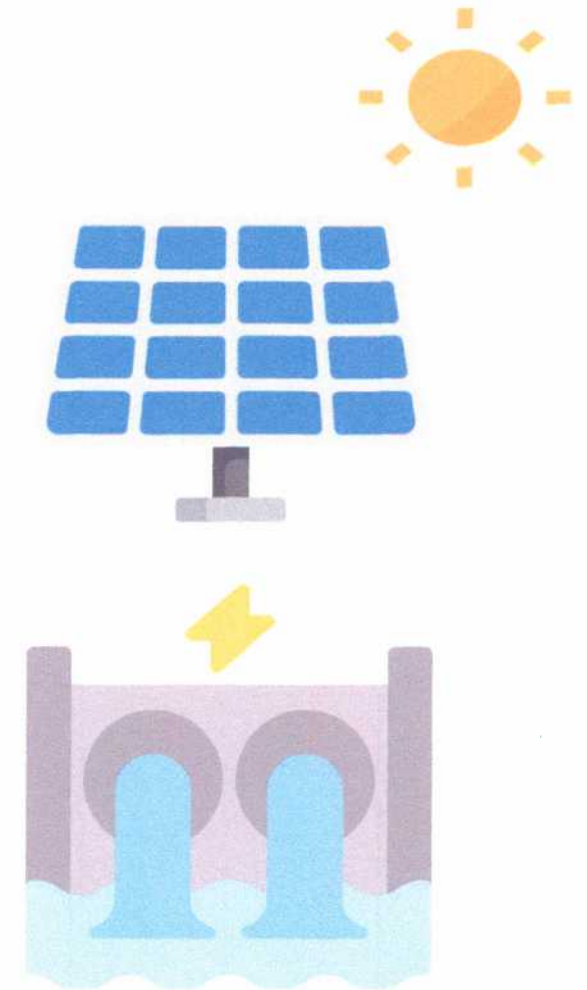




# Local Renewable Energy

## Program choices and markets:

- Green Default
- Optional products
- Optional program fund
- Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs)
- Local resources





# More Benefits

Local control



Consumer protections



Energy planning



Innovative local  
programs



Education and  
awareness



## Consumer Choices

Utility Default Service

Third Party Offers

## Community Power Program

**Basic product**  
(optional)

**New Program**  
**Default**

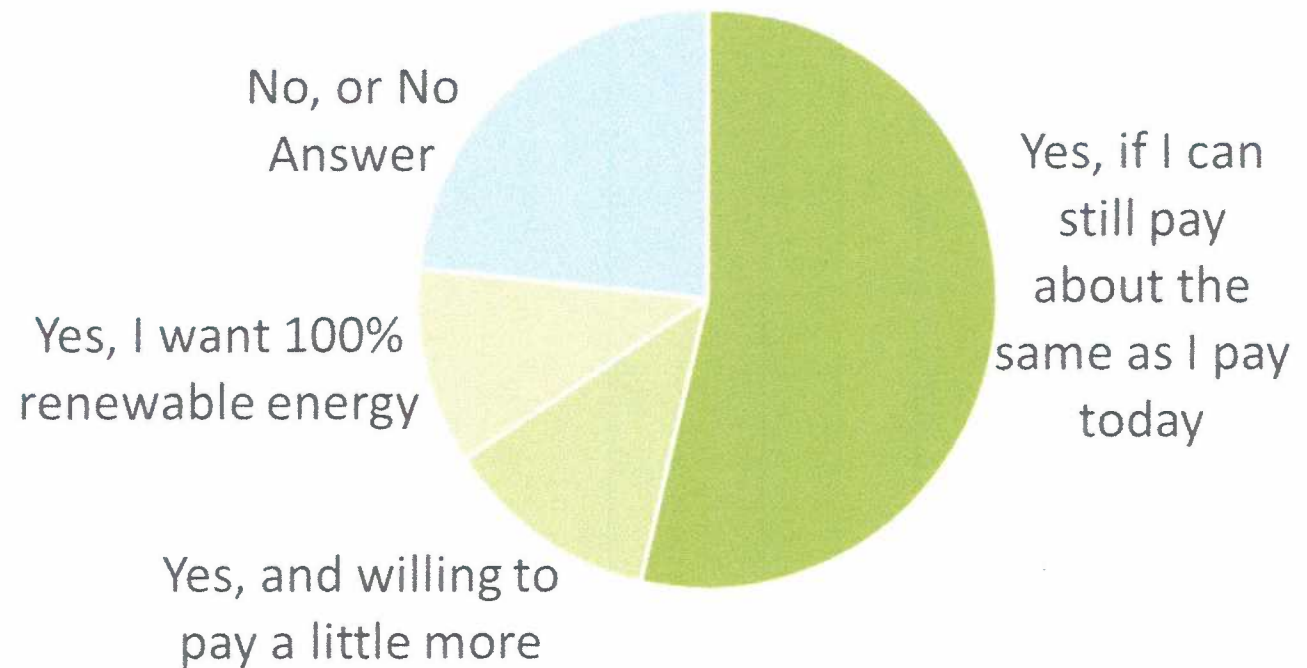
**Optional**  
**product**  
(optional)

**100%**  
**renewable**  
(optional)

Eligible customers are automatically enrolled in program default unless they opt out. Other customers can opt into the program.

# Community Power Survey

Are you interested in adding extra renewable energy in our electricity supply?



# Product Options

## Standard/Default



Adds 5-10% or more  
Class I RECs

## Basic



Meets State  
standards for  
renewable  
energy\*

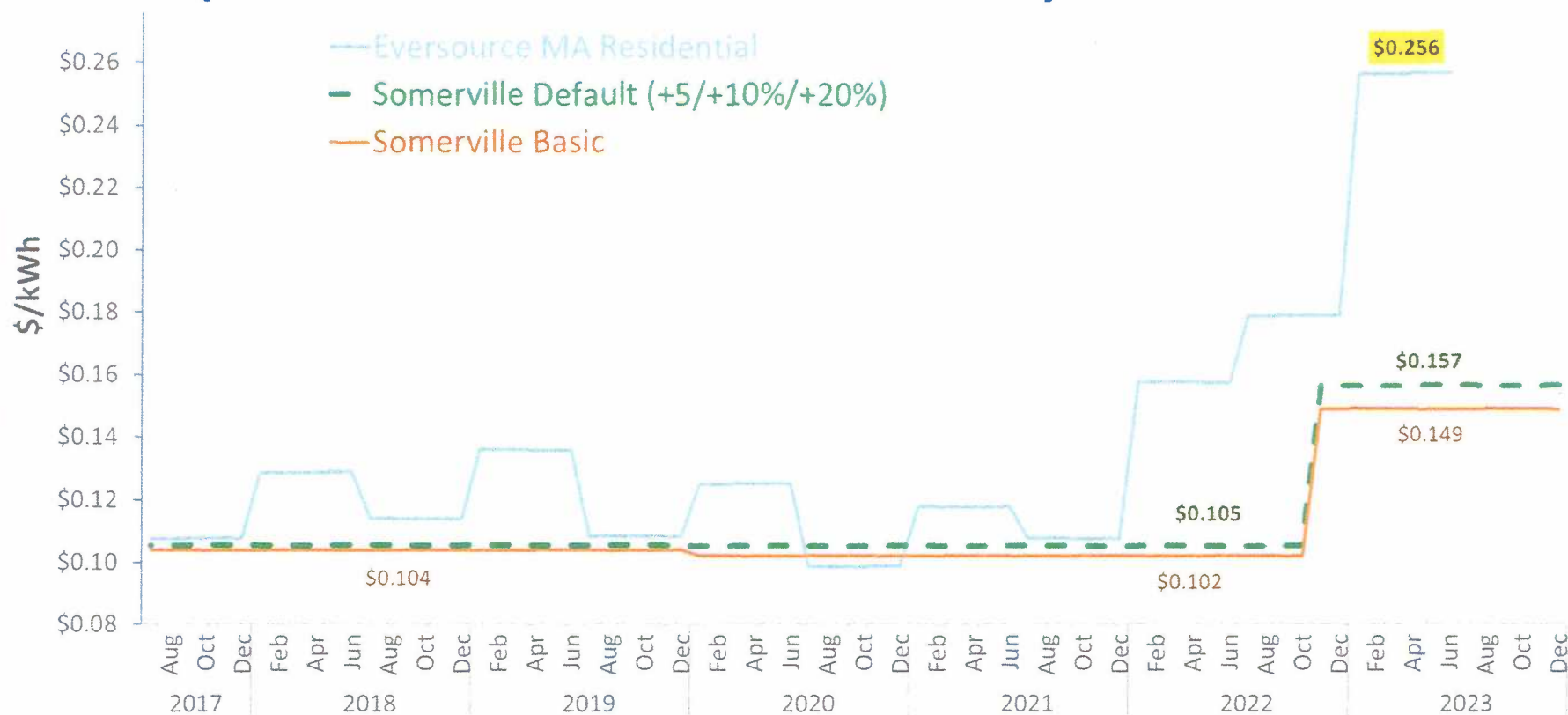
## 50%-100%



Matches 50%  
and/or 100% of  
energy use with  
extra Class I RECs

*\*New Hampshire RPS is 23.4% in 2023*

# Example: Somerville Community Choice



Disclaimer: Savings cannot be guaranteed, because utility Basic Service prices change every six months for residential customers

# Allenstown Community Power Plan:

- ❑ Goals are (1) lower rates and (2) more renewable energy
- ❑ Bundles together Eligible Customers for cost savings
- ❑ Those currently on competitive supply are not eligible but can opt-in
- ❑ Choices for lowest cost and more renewables up to 100%
- ❑ Electric assistance customers keep full benefits
- ❑ Net metering customers can participate
- ❑ Work on local energy initiatives
- ❑ No cost to the municipal budget



# Allenstown CP Timeline 2023



Appoint a Community Power Committee

Choose experienced SP/GE to help plan and launch your program

**Draft Community Power Plan with public input**

**Approval at Town Meeting 2023 preserves potential 2023 Launch if rates are favorable**

**Submit Plan to Public Utilities Commission**

Can be initiated prior to approval at Town meeting

Necessary to secure customer data for pricing

- **Draft Electric Services Agreement (ESA)**
- **Procure electricity supply with favorable rates**
- **Implement Public Education and Outreach Plan (see Plan Exhibit II)**
- **Launch!** Eligible Customer accounts that have not opted out are automatically enrolled; any other customer in Allenstown can opt in

Provide ongoing customer support, outreach, education and opt up campaigns, data management and analysis, planning, and more



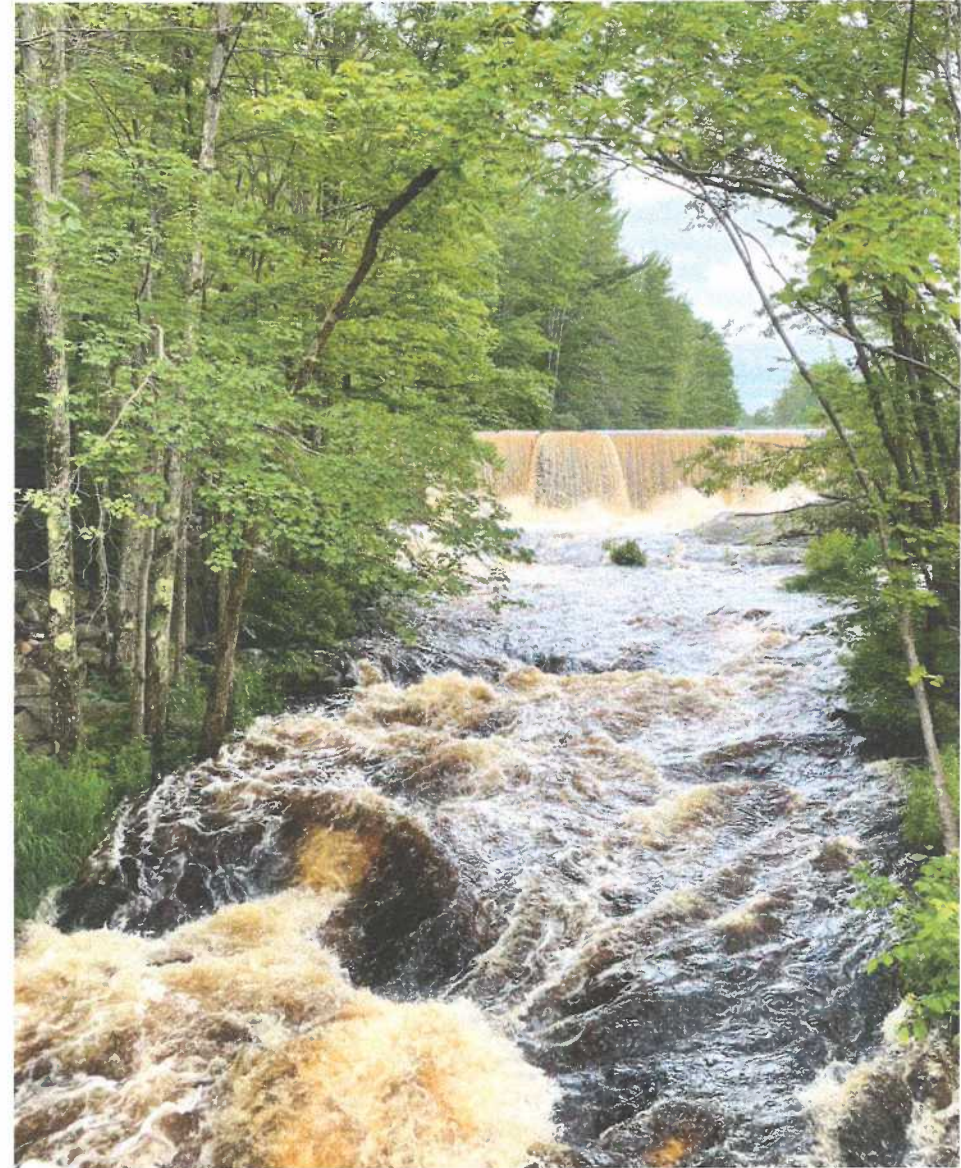
# Questions?



**Emily Manns**  
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Standard Power  
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**Bob Hayden**  
President and CTO  
Standard Power  
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# Standard Power Inc.

- Teamed up with **Good Energy LLP** in 2020 to provide Community Power Services in NH
- City of Keene and 11 NH Towns in 2022
- Electricity broker for 70 NH municipalities since 2013
- Largest Group Net Metering program in NH
- Solar/Hydro/REC integration for multiple communities

