

Community Electrical Aggregation (CEA)

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Millis Energy Committee

Craig Gibbons, Chair

Robert Weiss, Millis Energy Manager

The Problem:

Residential electric rates are highly volatile and have increased dramatically in the last 24 months. This situation is likely to continue until new natural gas pipelines are complete in 2018, at the earliest.

The Solution:

Leverage your town's collective purchasing power to create a buying group for the purpose of procuring electricity for residents and businesses in bulk.

The Benefits:

- Protection from volatile, rising energy prices
- Long-term budget stability
- Continue to receive a single bill from Eversource
- Continue to contact Eversource with any service issues
- Renewable energy options
- No early termination fees
- Opt-out anytime at no cost

TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE FOR MUNICIPAL AGGREGATION OF ELECTRICITY

To see if the Town will vote to grant the Board of Selectmen authority to research, develop and participate in a contract, or contracts, to aggregate the electricity load of the residents and businesses in the Town and for other related services, independently, or in joint action with other municipalities, retaining the right of individual residents and businesses to opt-out of the aggregation, or take any other action relative thereto.

Comment:

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, by enacting Chapter 164 of the Acts of 1997, has established a competitive marketplace through deregulation and restructuring of the electric utility industry. The residents and businesses of Millis have substantial economic, environmental, and social interests at stake and are interested in reducing their electricity rates. If an aggregation of electricity load is implemented in our Town, individual residents and businesses would retain the right to opt-out of the aggregation with no penalty and to choose any other competitive supplier or stay with the default utility.

Community Electrical Aggregation Explained Millis Energy Committee

Most Millis residents and businesses pay electric rates that are subject to the volatility of the electrical supply rates that utilities give them. These rates can change every six months, resulting in unpredictable and unstable electrical supply costs. Community Electrical Aggregation (CEA) brings predictable electrical supply costs to utility customers. Plus, residents and businesses can feel more secure knowing the negotiated rate that they choose for their electrical supply has been acquired through a process that has been administered and approved by municipal, regional and state entities. Because CEA's bulk purchasing benefit is not affected by the utilities restrictive mandates, electric customers can be confident they will have the lowest price available on the market. CEA involves the risk that during the supply contract's period, the basic utility rate could fall below the guaranteed rate.