

Quarter 1 Update – 2021

Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire

April 6, 2021

This document provides a Quarter 1 2021 summary update on Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (the Coalition).

Joint Powers Agreement & Coalition Membership

- On January 14, 2021, the New Hampshire Attorney General approved the Coalition’s Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) as compatible with New Hampshire law.
- On January 25, 2021, the Town of Hanover became the first municipality to adopt the JPA by vote of governing body. On February 3, the Lebanon City Council voted to adopt the JPA, becoming the second municipality to do so.
- On March 18th, 2021, the Coalition hosted a “Member Candidates Event” attended by ~70 representatives from several dozen New Hampshire cities and towns. The event introduced the Coalition and its Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) to member candidates, and invited communities to join. Registrants included city councilors from Keene and Portsmouth; municipal managers and staff from Claremont, Dover, Durham, Gorham, Nashua and Peterborough; Select Board members from Harrisville, Newbury and Rye; Manchester’s forming Energy Commission; and other community leaders representing Bristol, Canterbury, Center Harbor, Chesterfield, Concord, Derry, Enfield, Exeter, Hollis, Loudon, Lyme, Marlborough, Newmarket, Plainfield, Rindge, Somersworth, Sunapee, Swanzey, Warner and Waterville Valley.

Legislative and Regulatory

- Throughout Quarter 1, 2021, the Coalition led a statewide effort to defend Community Power against legislation introduced in the General Court that would have dismantled Community Power authorities (House Bill 315). As a result of the Coalition’s leadership and communications, Mayors from all New Hampshire cities, the NH Association of Counties, the NH Municipal Association and numerous other community and industry leaders from across the state coordinated efforts to oppose the deleterious bill. The public opposition and associated high-profile media attention prompted the bill sponsor to convene a series of collaborative stakeholder work sessions to re-write the bill by amendment. In March, the House Science, Technology & Energy Committee (ST&E) voted unanimously to adopt the amendment and to recommend the amended bill “Ought to Pass” to the House Floor. The Coalition and its allies support the bill as amended, as it now improves the Community Power market in several ways including the addition of a Purchase of Receivables program.

- In December 2020, Public Utilities Commission (PUC) regulators indicated that regulatory rules for Community Power Aggregations (CPAs) would be formally proposed in January 2021. The introduction of House Bill 315 prompted regulators to delay the CPA rule filing. Coalition leaders met with Eversource and regulators on April 1 to discuss the plan and timeline for expediting regulatory rules. Regulators, Eversource and Coalition members plan to revise draft rules to comport with the pending House Bill 315 and to have a consensus draft by mid-May.

Logo, Branding & Website

- In Quarter 1, the Coalition acquired its logo and launched its website, www.cpcnh.org. The Coalition also published and disseminated a branded “Welcome Booklet” for member candidates.

Implementation Progress

- The Coalition completed an Electric Aggregation Plan (EAP) template for use by member communities. Lebanon, Hanover, and Cheshire County are making use of the EAP template and moving through their respective public processes towards local legislative authorization of their respective Community Power Aggregations (CPAs).

Priorities for Quarter 2

- In Quarter 2 2021, the Coalition will prioritize:
 - Two-phase vendor engagement: (1) vendor survey; (2) solicitation for services.
 - Rollout of “Roadmap to Community Power: Manual for Electric Aggregation Committees.”