

2022 Quarter 2 Update

For Communities, By Communities



COMMUNITY POWER COALITION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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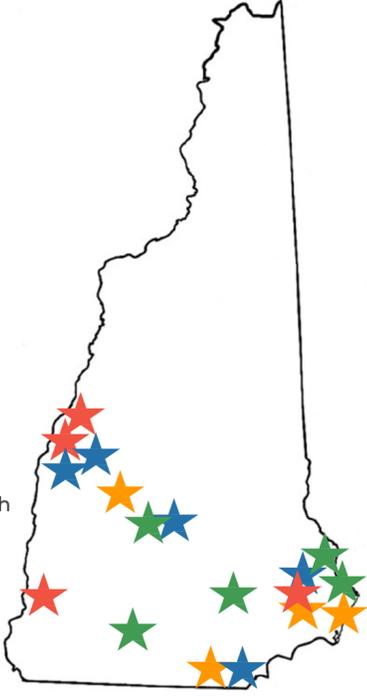


Coalition Tracking to 2023 Power Agency Launch

Happy Summer to our Community Power Subscribers! Since incorporating on October 1, 2021, Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire has made great strides in preparing for power supply operations, leading in the development of regulatory rules, and engaging New Hampshire cities and town to expand our membership and prepare communities for initial program launches.

Over the past nine months, five additional municipalities have joined the Coalition’s Membership, putting our collective 19 Members at approximately 20% of the state’s population (not counting the population of Cheshire County). Our members include:

	Director	Alternate
★	City of Lebanon Clifton Below	Greg Ames
★	City of Dover Christopher Parker	Jackson Kaspari
★	Town of Enfield Kim Quirk	Jo-Ellen Courtney
★	City of Nashua Doria Brown	
★	Cheshire County Terry Clark	Chris Coates
★	City of Portsmouth Kevin Charette	Peter Rice
★	Town of Durham Mandy Merrill	Nat Balch
★	Town of Exeter Nick Devonshire	Julie Gilman
★	Town of Hanover April Salas	Peter Kulbacki
★	Town of Harrisville Andrea Hodson	Andrew Maneval
★	Town of Hudson Craig Putnam	Kate Messner
★	Town of New London Jamie Hess	Tim Paradis
★	Town of Newmarket Toni Weinstein	Steve Fournier
★	Town of Pembroke Matthew Miller	Jackie Wengenroth
★	Town of Plainfield Evan Oxenham	Steve Ladd
★	Town of Rye Lisa Sweet	Howard Kalet
★	Town of Walpole Paul Looney	Dennis Marcom
★	Town of Warner Clyde Carson	George Packard
★	Town of Webster Martin Bender	David Hemenway



As the Granite State braces for electricity rate shock set to take effect on August 1 for customers on default energy supply from investor-owned Eversource and Liberty Utilities, more¹ and more² communities and experts,³ as well as the Governor’s Consumer Advocate,⁴ look to Community Power to provide rate relief. And with the Public Utilities Commission’s forthcoming July 27th publication of final draft rules, the runway to launch of the Coalition’s initial programs in 2023 is clearing for takeoff.

¹ City Councilor Tabor, *Greener, less costly electricity is possible in Portsmouth*, <https://bit.ly/3R3yjFr>
² Energy News Network, *Municipalities to replace utilities as default energy suppliers*, <https://bit.ly/3bQI7Cc>
³ NH Bulletin, *Advocates point to policy action in the face of rising energy costs*, <https://bit.ly/3R3yjFr>
⁴ Don Kreis, *Welcome to the ugly era of 22 cent electricity*, <https://bit.ly/3bKVHXV>



Meet the Coalition Officers and Leadership

The Coalition's Member Board of 37 appointed officials serving as primary and alternate Directors are hard at work overseeing agency start-up operations across six committees: Executive, Finance, Member Operations and Engagement, Regulatory and Legislative Affairs, Risk Management, and CEO and Staff Search. The Coalition is led by:



Clifton Below, Chair

City of Lebanon | Assistant Mayor & City Councilor

Mr. Below is a former PUC Commissioner, State Senator, and State Representative. He is the prime author of the Community Power Law and the first-in-the-nation Electric Utility Restructuring Statute, and has played key leadership roles in development of numerous other state and regional energy policies and programs. Mr. Below is a 4th term City Councilor and 3rd term Assistant Mayor.

Christopher G. Parker, Vice-Chair

City of Dover | Deputy City Manager

Mr. Parker leads (re)development and strategic projects for the City of Dover in support of enhancing the community's vibrancy for Dover residents and businesses. He coordinates interdepartmental activities ranging from strategic planning and resiliency, to capital investment and best management practices. Mr. Parker is committed to initiatives that encourage resiliency, public participation and education for planning, capital improvement, and financial policies. Mr. Parker was named professional planner of the year for New Hampshire and Northern New England in 2011, and has held a variety of roles with the City over the past 25 years.



Kimberley Quirk, Treasurer

Town of Enfield | Energy Committee

After 25 years in high tech, Ms. Quirk founded Energy Emporium, a solar installation company in 2009, which in 2019 merged with ReVision Energy. Ms. Quirk now manages the Upper Valley branch and serves as the company's storage expert. Ms. Quirk won a "Lean & Green" Award from NH Business Magazine for renovating an 1850's home to become net zero and fully powered by PV and thermal solar + storage. Ms. Quirk is a former chair of the Enfield Energy Committee and the current chair for the Enfield Community Power Plan.





Doria Brown, Secretary
City of Nashua | Energy Manager

Doria Brown manages Nashua's energy procurement, greenhouse gas accounting and energy efficiency projects. She leads the City's Electric Aggregation Committee and advises the City on Community Power. Ms. Brown was previously the Sustainability Specialist at Worthen Industries, served as Chairwoman of Nashua's Environment & Energy Committee.



Matt Miller, Chair of Risk Management Committee
Town of Pembroke | Energy Committee

Mr. Miller has held technology leadership positions across multiple continents at Schlumberger, an oilfield engineering services firm. He returned to New Hampshire in 2021 and now serves on the Pembroke energy and budget committees. Mr. Miller is recently retired and is motivated to help NH and Pembroke navigate the energy transition to achieve beneficial outcomes for their residents, municipalities and businesses through launching the Community Power market.



April Salas, Chair of CEO and Staff Search Committee
Town of Hanover | Sustainability Director

In addition to her role as Hanover Sustainability Director, Ms. Salas is the Executive Director at the Revers Center for Energy at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth, where she oversees programs and activities on the transition to sustainable energy. She serves on the Sustainable Hanover Committee and advises the Town on: Community Power, strategic pathways to accomplish the Town's 100% Renewable by 2050 goal, clean energy project and services solicitations, Power Purchase Agreement negotiations, and project management oversight. Ms. Salas represents Hanover in PUC proceedings, most recently the Development of a Statewide Multi-use Online Energy Data Platform (docket DE 19-197). She has nearly two decades of public and private sector experience in energy finance and market analysis, power delivery and smart grid infrastructure, sustainability and reliability, and the integration of new technologies into the electric power system and has held leadership positions at the federal level including Director of the White House and U.S. Department of Energy's Quadrennial Energy Review Task Force Secretariat.





Lisa Sweet, Chair of Member Operations and Engagement Committee

Town of Rye | Energy Committee

Ms. Sweet taught middle school math and science in public, private and international schools and has worked in educational publishing, curriculum development and standards alignment, and as a teaching consultant. Ms. Sweet helped develop “Sidewalk Farms,” an initiative to sustainably grow food in small spaces around the community. She joined the Rye Energy Committee with the goal of educating others

and making change on a community level. Ms. Sweet leads the Coalition’s Committee to provide support and communications services and resources across the Membership towards successful launch of Community Power programs.

Amanda Merrill, Chair of Regulatory & Legislative Affairs Committee

Town of Durham | Energy Committee

Ms. Merrill was raised in New Hampshire and has a long history of leadership in nonprofit, educational and public institutions. Ms. Merrill is a former State Senator, Representative, and House policy staffer. Following her legislative career, Ms. Merrill served as director of the NH Office of Energy and Planning under Governor Maggie Hassan. Her work as a legislator and policy professional has consistently focused on environmental and energy policy issues.



Beyond the Coalition’s Officers and Committee Chairs, the other 29 representatives and alternates serving on the Board of Directors bring great breadth and depth of expertise to the organization with experience and professional backgrounds including: utility directorship; private equity investing; entrepreneurship; community organizing; public works planning and development; journalism; human resources; law; mechanical, software and electrical engineering; energy efficient building design and construction; municipal management and more.



Coalition Prepares for Power Supply Operations

June 15th, 2022 marked the deadline for responses to the Coalition's Request for Proposals for Comprehensive Services and Credit Support.⁵ The Risk Management Committee is currently reviewing numerous proposals and overseeing the process to short-list, interview, negotiate with and select vendors to conduct operations on behalf of the power agency.

The number and quality of proposals submitted strongly affirms that the energy industry, both regionally and nationally, shares in the Coalition's vision of a transformative, market-based and democratic model for the power sector, and is enthusiastic about partnering to make that vision reality.

Additionally, during the first three quarters of its start-up phase, the Coalition has:

- Received approximately \$130,000 in grants and donations to cover administrative expenses and consulting services.
- Contracted for General Counsel and legal services provided by Duncan Weinberg Genzer & Pembroke, P.C. with Eli Emerson from Primmer Piper Eggleston & Cramer as New Hampshire counsel.
- Contracted for technical consulting services provided by Community Choice Partners, Inc.
- Contracted with Herndon Enterprises, LLC for organizational and Member support services.

Peterborough Votes to Join Coalition!

On July 5th, the Peterborough Select Board voted unanimously to adopt the Coalition's Joint Powers Agreement and join as a Member. The Coalition Board will vote on welcoming its 20th member community at its upcoming Board meeting. The Town of Peterborough has already approved an Electric Aggregation Plan at Town Meeting and is well-positioned to join the first wave of Coalition programs to launch. Peterborough aims to use Community Power to achieve its 100% renewable energy goal.

PUC Scheduled to Publish Rules July 27

The Public Utilities Commission has scheduled a meeting for July 27th to present and vote on a final rules proposal to govern Community Power Aggregations.⁶ The PUC's initial draft proposal was based almost entirely on the petition prepared by the Coalition and joined onto by numerous public, private and nonprofit stakeholders.

⁵ See www.cpcnh.org/solicitations

⁶ NHPR, *State regulators delay vote on Community Power rules*, <https://bit.ly/3P2Uk5G>



The proposal will come before the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules before it is formally adopted, likely in August. The Coalition anticipates final rules will be in place by Fall 2022.

Two Bills Mark Legislative Progress: SB 321, SB 265

Coalition leaders guided two important bills to enactment this legislative session.

Senate Bill 321 allows Community Power Aggregations and others, on a pilot basis, to accelerate the deployment of small-scale renewable and battery storage projects of up to two megawatts in capacity. Programs implemented under the legislation would help reduce transmission and capacity costs levied on customers.

As a result of Coalition organizing and action alerts,⁷ more than 80 individuals showed up to support Senate Bill 321 at legislative hearings. The only opposition came from Eversource. Governor Sununu signed the bill into law on June 17, 2022.

- Bill Text, <https://bit.ly/3OGBCAt> | NH General Court Bill Details, <https://bit.ly/3OMeLDY>

Senate Bill 265 Becomes Law! Coalition leaders, including Cheshire County Director Terry Clark and Board Chair Clifton Below, successfully shepherded Senate Bill 265, “relative to the aggregation of electric customers by counties,” through the legislative process. Governor Sununu signed the bill on May 27.

The bill clarifies that counties launching opt-in Community Power Aggregations need not mail written notifications to all retail electric customers within their geography, a point of confusion in the statute as previously constructed.

Cheshire County is a founding member of the Coalition and is developing its Electric Aggregation Plan for approval and implementation. This bill clears the way for Cheshire County to demonstrate the state’s first County-level Community Power program.

- Bill Text, <https://bit.ly/3OICa9c> | NH General Court Bill Details, <https://bit.ly/3OH4pVN>

8 Community Power Plans Approved, More to Come

Town Meeting season resulted in a perfect record for Coalition Member Community Power votes!

Five of five Coalition Member towns with Community Power on the ballot (Enfield, Exeter, Plainfield,⁸ Rye and Walpole⁹) voted overwhelmingly to approve Electric Aggregation Plans. These towns joined Harrisville, Hanover and the City of Lebanon, which had previously approved programs locally.

⁷ Coalition Action Alert, February 22, 2022, <https://bit.ly/3nBp3um>

⁸ Plainfield approves power coalition plan, <https://bit.ly/3nFSR9r>

⁹ Walpole voters OK community power plan, <https://bit.ly/3ab7hvd>



The City of Nashua and the Town of Durham are working towards authorizing programs in the next couple of months, putting the collective electric load of anticipated first-wave launch communities at over 500,000 annual megawatt-hours.

The Coalition's remaining Members – Cheshire County, the cities of Dover and Portsmouth, and the towns of Hudson, Newmarket, New London, Pembroke, Warner and Webster – are each working towards developing their Electric Aggregation Plans for local approvals in 2023 and subsequent launch of programs.

The Coalition continues to field inquiries from interested communities and attend meetings with committees, municipal staff, select boards, and town/city councils considering membership.

Over the past several months the Coalition has presented to the Londonderry Town Council, Milford Select Board, Cornish Energy Committee, Dublin Energy Committee, Nelson Community Power Committee, Boscawen Energy Committee, Androscoggin Valley Energy Committee, and the Peterborough Community Power Committee. The Coalition continues to engage with dozens of other local leaders inquiring about Coalition Membership and has presented at various educational and panel events including those hosted by NH Network for Environment, Energy and Climate and Portsmouth Smart Growth.

Priorities Moving Forward

Over the remainder of the start-up phase, the Coalition will prioritize:

- Completing the competitive solicitation process and executing service agreements that will allow the Coalition to launch Community Power programs across New Hampshire.
- Supporting Members that have authorized programs by procuring power and managing the customer enrollment and program launch process
- Supporting our Members' local committees in drafting Community Power Plans, educating the public and approving their plans in compliance with RSA 53-E.
- Supporting municipalities in joining the Coalition by adopting the Joint Powers Agreement.

The Coalition's staffing strategy is to fill key functional roles with highly qualified staff in managerial positions to provide oversight and initiative for the agency:

- Prior to launch, the Coalition expects to hire a CEO or General Manager experienced in managing an all-requirements power agency in a competitive market.
- Leading up to launch of initial programs, the Coalition aims to fill additional staff positions in the areas of business development and customer service, energy portfolio management, financial management, information technology, and regulatory and legislative affairs.



**COMMUNITY
POWER COALITION
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**
For communities, by communities.

Mission and Values

*Our mission is to foster resilient New Hampshire communities
by empowering them to realize their energy goals.*

The Coalition creates value for our Community Power member municipalities by jointly contracting for services, developing projects and programs together, educating and engaging the public, and advocating for communities and customers at the Legislature and Public Utilities Commission.

In carrying out its activities, the Coalition is guided by the following values:

- Embody an **inspiring vision** for **New Hampshire's energy future**.
- Support communities to **reduce energy costs** and pursue economic vitality by harnessing the power of **competitive markets** and **innovation**.
- Support communities to implement successful energy and climate policies and to **promote the transition to a carbon neutral energy system**.
- **Balance the interests of member communities** who are diverse in demographics, geography and their energy goals.
- Use our shared expertise, leadership and skills to **educate, empower and build the capacities** of our members.
- Help communities **demystify the power sector** to **make informed decisions**.
- Facilitate **collaboration and teamwork** by **championing diversity, equity and inclusion** of people and communities of all kinds.

www.cpcnh.org | info@cpcnh.org