



Michael J. Driscoll  
Town Manager

TOWN OF  
WATERTOWN  
*Office of the Town Manager*

Administration Building  
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[townmgr@watertown-ma.gov](mailto:townmgr@watertown-ma.gov)

To: Honorable Town Council

From: Michael J. Driscoll, Town Manager

Date: September 7, 2017

RE: Agenda Item - Informational Presentation on Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)

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As a follow-up to the attached May 9<sup>th</sup> and July 21, 2017 Miscellaneous Items and discussion with Honorable Town Council President Mark S. Sideris, I respectfully request an Informational Presentation be placed on the September 12, 2017 Town Council Agenda. The Informational Presentation will be on Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) (see attached PowerPoint presentation); and will be given by Edward Lewis, Energy Manager.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

cc: Edward Lewis, Energy Manager  
Department Heads



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To: Honorable Town Council  
From: Michael J. Driscoll, Town Manager  
Date: May 9, 2017  
RE: Miscellaneous Items

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Today's Miscellaneous Items includes the following:

Official Invitation to the 2017 Historical Preservation Awards

→ renewable energy program

Seeking Mascot Proposals

Marshall Home Fund to Watertown HD

Live Well Steering Committee May Meeting

Upcoming Events\_ Free Youth Mental Health First Aid Training

Appointment Letter – Reed

Appointment Letter – Wenger

Street letter D.A. Bosworth \_ Philips street

Annual Legislative Breakfast

April tax slide forcing Massachusetts officials to revisit budget

Gov. Baker says budget fix will preserve local aid, 'critical programs'

Massachusetts towns ditch standard electric service to embrace green power

MIIA Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Spring Supervisor newsletter

## Hand, JoAnna

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**From:** Driscoll, Michael  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 09, 2017 11:00 AM  
**To:** Osmond, Marsha; Hand, JoAnna  
**Cc:** Lewis, Edward; Dept. Heads; Comm Dev & Develop  
**Subject:** renewable energy program

Please include in today's Misc Items to Council.

**From:** Driscoll, Michael  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 09, 2017 10:45 AM  
**To:** 'Forsythe, Dana' <dforsythe@wickedlocal.com>  
**Cc:** Lewis, Edward <elewis@watertown-ma.gov>  
**Subject:** renewable energy program

Good morning Sir/ Dana; as a follow up to your email below , please see the response from Mr. Lewis, the Town's Energy Manager.

**From:** Lewis, Edward  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 09, 2017 10:29 AM  
**To:** Driscoll, Michael <mdriscoll@watertown-ma.gov>  
**Cc:** Magoon, Steven <smagoon@watertown-ma.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: renewable energy program

Mr. Driscoll,

I am very familiar with Municipal Aggregation (also known as Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)).

CCA is a complex process with many moving parts and very significant community involvement / education is required. Best practices from other Communities have shown that sponsorship by a Town Committee of sustainability minded residents helps to ensure successful deployment.

Watertown is very fortunate to have an active and involved group dedicated to energy use reduction / sustainability, the Watertown Environment and Energy Efficiency Committee (WE3C). I have been working with the WE3C to provide background on aggregation's benefits and deployment process, to see if they, in their capacity as an advisory committee to the Town, wish to sponsor CCA. To that end Watertown has hosted guest speakers on this topic at recent WE3C meetings.

Carol Oldham - Executive Director, Massachusetts Climate Action Network spoke at our January meeting to provide an overview of Community Choice Aggregation and experiences / best practices from communities that have or are in the process of adopting it. Ms. Oldham is a dynamic and knowledgeable speaker and the Mass Climate Action Network strongly endorses CCA.

At our March meeting Patrick Roche - Energy Coordinator, Clean Energy Division, MAPC, and Stefano Loretto – Business Development Director – Good Energy provided details on the overall process. For background following is a very high level review of their discussion.

- o Due to member community requests the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) Clean Energy Division has developed a program to assist communities to implement Municipal Aggregation.

- Municipal Aggregation allows residents, small businesses and non-profits the option to purchase electrical power under an aggregation (bulk purchase) plan. This provides volume purchasing power and can provide cost savings and price stability along with significantly greener energy than supplied from the utility.
- Increasing the percentage of green power of Watertown's electrical supply would provide a significant reduction in the Town's carbon footprint. The MAPC's recommended program is specifically designed to facilitate increasing New England's renewable power generation.
- Over 50 towns and cities in Mass have implemented or are in the process of implementing Community Choice Aggregation, including nearby cities/towns of Cambridge, Brookline, Dedham, Lexington, Melrose, Arlington, and Somerville.
- Subscribers to Municipal Aggregation would continue to receive a single bill and service from Eversource.
- Municipal Aggregation is voluntary, residents can decline or can opt out at any time with no penalty.

In an upcoming meeting the WE3C will discuss their interest in sponsoring CCA and, if they choose to, the next step would be to request approval from Town Management / Town Council. Before being offered to our residents there would be additional checkpoints (including the actual negotiated rates) that would require Town approval.

Although many benefits can accrue from CCA (price stability, typical (but not guaranteed) cost savings, reduction of Green House Gas emissions, and driving increased renewable generation in New England) it is not an insignificant process and can take 18 months from Town approval to deployment.

Best regards,

Ed Lewis, CEM  
 Energy Manager  
 Community Development & Planning  
 Town of Watertown  
 (P) 617-972-6417 EXT. 12215



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*Remember when writing or responding the Secretary of State's Office has determined that e-mails are a public record.*

**From:** Driscoll, Michael  
**Sent:** Monday, May 08, 2017 5:14 PM  
**To:** Lewis, Edward <[elewis@watertown-ma.gov](mailto:elewis@watertown-ma.gov)>  
**Cc:** Magoon, Steven <[smagoon@watertown-ma.gov](mailto:smagoon@watertown-ma.gov)>  
**Subject:** renewable energy program

Sir/ Ed; as we briefly discussed, here is the email from Mr. Forsythe.

**From:** Forsythe, Dana [<mailto:dforsythe@wickedlocal.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 08, 2017 12:30 PM  
**To:** Driscoll, Michael <[mdriscoll@watertown-ma.gov](mailto:mdriscoll@watertown-ma.gov)>  
**Subject:** renewable energy program

Hi Michael...

Does Watertown have anything like this? Any plans to join a program like it.. Please let me know. Thanks

**THE ISSUE:** Some communities are boosting their use of renewable energy bypassing basic electric service to negotiate contracts with third-party generators.

**THE IMPACT:** Two programs are running, with eight more in development. Those 10 communities' plans could result in 17 new 1-megawatt wind turbines.

**Towns ditch standard electric service to embrace green power**

Gerry Tuoti

Wicked Local Newsbank Editor

A small but growing number of cities and towns are negotiating new electric contracts for their residents to boost renewable energy use in Massachusetts, bypassing the basic service offered by utilities such as National Grid and Eversource.

The practice is called municipal aggregation.

"Traditionally, it's been much more used as a practice to achieve savings and provide much more price stability," said Cammy Peterson, director of clean energy at the Metropolitan Area Planning Council. "The innovation is that piece where they're also using it as a tool to advance renewable energy in a supply."

Melrose was among the first Massachusetts communities to use municipal aggregation as a way to increase the use of renewable energy. Its plan, which went into effect last January, mandates that renewable sources be used to generate at least 17 percent of the electricity coming into the town. Massachusetts regulations require that renewables make up at least 12 percent of the statewide energy portfolio.

Martha Grover, energy efficiency manager for Melrose, said she's recently fielded calls from several communities considering similar plans.

Dedham launched its own program last year. Eight other communities – Arlington, Brookline, Gloucester, Hamilton, Millis, Somerville, Sudbury and Winchester – are currently working with the MAPC to launch their own green municipal aggregation programs.

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Dana Forsythe

Editor

[Watertown Tab/ WickedLocal](#)

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To: Honorable Town Council  
From: Michael J. Driscoll, Town Manager  
Date: July 21, 2017  
RE: Miscellaneous Items

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Today's Miscellaneous Items includes the following:

Governor Signs Budget - Statewide Housing Court Expansion Is Happening

Mosquito PSAs for Immediate Release

Press Release on Elevated Risk Level for West Nile Virus

Hen and Honeybee Information Display at Library

Street letter Hovey Street

→ Agenda for the Monday, July 24th Environment and Energy Efficiency Committee Meeting

Hatch write up in the TAB

Approved Minutes

Marijuana law

Athenahealth's Chief Financial Officer Stepping Down, Interim Appointed

Community begins to react to idea for new library and senior housing

Developer pitches new plan for Pleasant Street site despite pending lawsuit

Eversource rate case presenting fiscal woes for solar projects

## Hand, JoAnna

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**From:** Magoon, Steven  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 18, 2017 11:07 AM  
**To:** Hand, JoAnna; Osmond, Marsha  
**Subject:** FW: Agenda for the Monday, July 24th Environment and Energy Efficiency Committee Meeting  
**Attachments:** WE3C 7-24-2017 Agenda.docx

Please include in misc. items. Thanks

**From:** Lewis, Edward  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 18, 2017 10:00 AM  
**To:** Lewis, Edward <[elewis@watertown-ma.gov](mailto:elewis@watertown-ma.gov)>  
**Subject:** Agenda for the Monday, July 24th Environment and Energy Efficiency Committee Meeting

Hello all,

Attached is the agenda for the Monday, July 24<sup>th</sup> WE3C meeting, it will be held at 7:00pm in the Town Hall third floor conference room.

We will be hosting guest speakers from Peregrine Energy Group and Bay State – community choice electrical aggregation consultants.

Please RSVP to me if you think you will be able to attend.

Best regards,

Ed Lewis CEM  
Energy Manager  
Community Development & Planning  
Town of Watertown  
(P) 617-972-6417 EXT. 12215



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# TOWN OF WATERTOWN

## Environment & Energy Efficiency Committee

The Watertown Environment and Energy Efficiency Committee

Will meet at 7:00PM on Monday, July 24th, 2017

Town Hall Administration Building  
3rd Floor Conference Room  
149 Main Street  
Watertown, MA 02472

The public is welcome.

You can request placement of an item on future agendas by contacting Ed Lewis at [elewis@watertown-ma.gov](mailto:elewis@watertown-ma.gov)

### Agenda

- 7:00 Welcome and introductions
- 7:10 Presentation on Community Choice Aggregation by  
Peregrine & Bay State – Aggregation Consultants
- 8:10 Update from working groups:
  - Community Choice Aggregation Working Group
  - Gas leaks
  - Other
- 8:25 Energy Manager Report
- 8:30 Adjourn



# Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)

## Community Choice / Municipal Aggregation

Watertown's Environment and Energy Efficiency

Committee (WE3C) and the Energy Office are

asking the Town Council to authorize Watertown  
to join Arlington, Brookline, Cambridge,

Somerville, Melrose and 109 other

Massachusetts communities who offer  
Community Choice Aggregation to their

residents and small businesses

## Community Choice Aggregation - background

- Watertown contracts with an electricity supplier to provide electricity to any residential, small business, or non-profit rate payer on basic service
- This allows bulk purchase of greener electricity with longer contract terms;
  - Provides price stability
  - Provides affordable local renewable energy
  - Drives additional renewable generation in our area
  - Typically (but not guaranteed) lowers cost

# Community Choice Implementation Process

1. Town Council authorizes municipality to investigate aggregation and develop a plan
2. Consultant is retained (at no cost to Town) to develop Aggregation Plan (\* steps performed primarily by consultant)
3. Opportunity provided for public review and input
4. Seek Town approval to send plan on for State approval
5. \* Submit plan to Dept. of Energy Resources for approval
6. \* Submit plan to Dept. of Public Utilities for approval

## Community Choice Implementation Process

7. \* Request bids for electrical supply (1-3 year terms)
8. If bid is accepted by the Town, contract is awarded
9. \* Conduct 30 day public education and awareness including opt-out notice mailed to each resident
10. \* Launch program for all on basic service who have not opted out
11. \* Maintain program and answer resident inquiries

(Note – implementing the aggregation process typically takes 14-18 months)

## Typical CCA options

- Successful CCA programs have included:
  - **Default Green Rate** includes an increased level of LOCAL renewable generation (17% vs. 12%)
  - Optional basic rate – State mandated amount of renewable generation (12%)
  - Option Green Plus rate – significantly more renewable generation (50-100%)

Note: historically only a few percent choose other than default rate

## CCA impact (resident / small business / region)

### Customers:

- Continue to receive one electric bill from and have service provided by Eversource
- Receive price stability over the length of contract
- Typically save money (savings are not guaranteed)
- Can choose not to participate or can opt out at any time penalty free

### Regional impact:

- Drives additional local renewable generation
- Reduces Watertown's carbon footprint

Back-up slides



## Mass Communities with approved CCA programs

- Acushnet
- Adams
- Aquinnah
- Arlington
- Ashby
- Ashland
- Attleboro
- Auburn
- Barnstable
- Bellingham
- Berlin
- Bernardston
- Bourne
- Brewster
- Burlington
- Cambridge
- Carver
- Charlton
- Chatham
- Chelmsford
- Cheshire
- Chilmark
- Clarksburg
- Dalton
- Dartmouth
- Dedham
- Dennis
- Dighton
- Douglas
- Dracut
- Eastham
- Edgartown
- Egremont
- Fairhaven
- Fall River
- Falmouth
- Florida
- Foxborough
- Franklin
- Freetown

## Mass Communities with approved CCA programs

- Gardner
- Gloucester
- Grafton
- Greenfield
- Halifax
- Harwich
- Hatfield
- Haverhill
- Heath
- Holliston
- Kingston
- Lancaster
- Lanesborough
- Lenox
- Lexington
- Lowell
- Lunenburg
- Marion
- Marlborough
- Mashpee
- Mattapoisett
- Melrose
- Mendon
- Methuen
- Millbury
- Millville
- Monterey
- Nantucket
- Natick
- New Bedford
- Newburyport
- North Adams
- Northbridge
- Norton
- Oak Bluffs
- Orleans
- Oxford
- Pelham
- Pembroke
- Pittsfield

## Mass Communities with approved CCA programs

- Plainville
- Plymouth
- Provincetown
- Rehoboth
- Salem
- Salisbury
- Sandisfield
- Sandwich
- Seekonk
- Sheffield
- Somerset
- Sudbury
- Sutton
- Swampscott
- Swansea
- Tewksbury
- Tisbury
- Turo
- Tyngsborough
- Tyringham
- Upton
- Walpole
- Wellfleet
- Wendell
- West  
Brookfield
- West  
Stockbridge
- West Tisbury
- Westborough
- Westford
- Westport
- Williamstown
- Winchendon
- Winchester
- Yarmouth

Source –  
[www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov)