



## **Community Choice Aggregation in The Berkshires: Raising Renewable Energy Standards. Controlling Costs.**

- Early this fall, eleven Berkshire communities, including this one, executed an energy aggregation contract with Hampshire Power for 90% New England-based renewable electricity supply for all consumers participating in the Town's Community Choice Power Supply program.
- In addition to the pioneering environmental aspect of this contract, Berkshire ratepayers will also see a 25% savings in their monthly energy bills as compared to National Grid's basic service rates, **a savings of approximately \$20 per month for the average household.**
- This contract will supply electricity to thousands of residential and hundreds of commercial ratepayers in the Berkshires.
- 90% of the electricity will be directly produced from New England-based hydroelectric renewable sources, or backed by Renewable Energy Credits.
- The agreement is the first of its kind in Massachusetts and has few, if any, precedents nationally.
- Municipal electricity aggregation allows cities and towns to pool the electrical consumption of all ratepayers in their jurisdictions, and competitively procure lower cost electricity supply on behalf of the participants.
- **This product takes renewable energy to the next level.** A product of this nature is not available to an individual resident. The municipal aggregation for each community has a Load Asset ID that is set up at ISO New England allowing the hydroelectric supplier to deliver the actual electricity to each community. This transaction is called an internal bilateral transaction (IBT) meaning that the hydroelectric supply is not being put on the grid as system mix it is being delivered to the residents of the Berkshire aggregations.
- The Berkshire's selected **Hampshire Power** to be its electricity supplier after an open and competitive process. Hampshire Power was one of several companies to respond to a RFP, which required companies to establish that they could meet

a number of customer service, account management, clean energy, and corporate economic health requirements.

- In addition to guaranteeing that 90% of Berkshire's power supply will be from renewable sources, the agreement includes a full accounting of all of the sources of fuel used to power the municipalities, providing residents with an unparalleled level of transparency about the sources of their energy
- **Colonial Power Group, Inc., a Massachusetts energy consulting company, was chosen in a competitive process to design, implement, and administer the Community Choice Power Supply program on behalf of the Berkshire communities.** "This program provides price stability, local control, competition, and, above all, renewable energy, without adding a single dollar to the tax burden of Berkshire's residents and business community," said Mark Cappadona of Colonial Power Group, Inc. "We commend the Municipal leaders for their innovative approach to creating a new paradigm in energy purchasing."
- **Hampshire Power is a unit of the Northampton, MA based Hampshire Council of Governments.** "Energy purchases represent a significant cost to homeowners and businesses and it is important to spend those dollars in a sustainable way that strengthens the economy. said Todd Ford, executive director of the Hampshire Council. "The Berkshires has once again proven to be a leader in energy and economic development and we look forward to bringing the benefits of responsibly-priced local renewable power to our new customers as quickly as possible"