

To: Somerville City Council

From: Oliver Sellers-Garcia, Director, Office of Sustainability & Environment

Re: Somerville Community Choice Electricity updates

Date: November 4, 2019

Summary

The current term of Somerville Community Choice Electricity (CCE) ends in December 2019. In January 2020, the program will begin a new 35-month term that will have a lower price and twice as much extra renewable electricity.

Changes

- The price of the default rate, Somerville Local Green, will drop from \$0.10538/kWh to \$0.10519/kWh. (The current Eversource residential rate is \$0.10836/kWh.)
- The amount of extra local renewable electricity will double from 5% to 10%. This amount is in addition to the renewable electricity that Eversource is required to provide.
- The supplier will change from Dynegy to Direct Energy.

Communication and outreach

- In early December, an informational mailer will be sent to all Somerville electricity customers, except those who have already opted out of the program.
- An upgraded website will launch in conjunction with the mailer.
- The City will be announcing the new program details on November 18th at 10:00 AM in City Hall. This event will be held in coordination with Mothers Out Front and will celebrate the positive impact of the program.
- The City will be promoting the option to voluntarily opt-up to 100% local renewable electricity.

Impact of current program

- The Somerville CCE rate has been lower than the Eversource rate for the entire 30-month duration of the program.
- Residential customers have saved \$3,023,614 (approximately \$130 per household). Small commercial customers have saved \$1,281,714.
- With purchases of approximately 9,200 MWh of extra renewable energy annually, Somerville customers' purchases are equal to the output of 2 wind turbines you might see around New England (1.5 MW each).

Background

- Community Choice Electricity is a bulk-buying program that was authorized by law in Massachusetts in 1997. By grouping accounts together, municipalities may be able to obtain lower prices.
- In 2015, the Somerville Board of Aldermen voted to authorize municipal aggregation. In 2017, the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities approved Somerville's plan to create an aggregation program that provided additional renewable energy to customers.