

Let's Build a Statewide Community Power Culture

Rye Community Power is Launching. Join Us!

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The Town of Rye has some exciting news - Rye Community Power is launching in April!

That means our residents and business are immediately going to start seeing savings on their electric bills. But it is not just about the money. Ratepayers will also have more choices than they currently do. Rye Community Power's default rate product will cost less than Eversource's and will meet or beat Eversource as far as its renewable energy content (at least 23.4% as required by law). With Rye Community Power, residents and businesses will also be able to select products with a higher content of renewable/carbon-free energy. So, if you have been looking for ways to reduce your carbon footprint, here is a simple way to do that!

The Town of Rye will be launching its community power program with other communities across the state who are a part of the Community Power Coalition of NH (CPCNH). Eight CPCNH members (including Exeter) are ready to go, and others, including Portsmouth, Dover, and Durham are actively working toward launch. In late 2021, Rye joined thirteen other New Hampshire cities and towns to establish CPCNH, a statewide nonprofit power agency governed by its members. CPCNH connects peers all across the state, creating opportunities for networking and access to a huge variety of expertise. We provide education and loads of resources for communities to develop a program that suits their local goals.

Since 2021, CPCNH has doubled in size and now includes over 20% of NH's population. We have helped more than a dozen communities create and approve community power programs, with at least as many poised to approve plans in early 2023. CPCNH championed the development of fair and favorable regulatory rules at the Public Utilities Commission to enable all NH community power programs to get going. CPCNH has contracted an industry-leading team of experts to help us intelligently manage electricity purchases and give us the tools to develop energy projects locally to benefit the NH economy and reduce our rates further. And, as part of this statewide coalition, we will be sharing the cost of services and aggregating our energy supply purchases with the other members, giving us even more bulk purchasing power.

When Rye Community Power goes live, Eversource will continue to own and maintain the power grid and deliver electricity to customers. Selecting CPCNH as Rye's procurement partner allows Rye to have a say in where and how to source the electricity that Eversource delivers. That means, in time, and with support from CPCNH, we could develop affordable, community-scale renewable energy projects right here in New Hampshire.

The Rye Energy Committee and the Select Board have put in a lot of work as one of NH's Community Power trailblazers. I'm proud of what we've accomplished in Rye, and what is being

accomplished in our Coalition of sister towns starting up Community Power programs all over New Hampshire. The challenges we face in ensuring reliability and access to affordable, cleaner energy are no doubt big ones. It will take all of us - cities, towns, counties, utilities, and the legislature – to meet those challenges and build a better energy future for New Hampshire!

CPCNH is committed to building the power - figuratively and literally - to find a better way forward. If your community is considering a local community power program, join us!

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