

Harrisville Community Power Electric Aggregation Plan

(TM-05-22-2021:12-01-22)



As approved by Harrisville voters at
Town Meeting on May 22, 2021

With modifications by
the Select Board, December 1, 2022

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Introduction

Harrisville Community Power is a program to provide electric power supply and services for residents, businesses, and other entities in Harrisville's jurisdiction, made possible by legislation passed recently. (Refer to Attachment 1 for more detail about the legislation.)

The Select Board tasked the Electric Aggregation Committee to research and evaluate the new legislation. We recommended the Town adopt Community Power. The Electric Aggregation Plan set forth goals, implementation and management principles, and requirements for the program for consideration at Town Meeting, May 22, 2021, which the Town of Harrisville voted to authorize as presented.

To ensure the successful launch and operation of Harrisville Community Power, the Select Board will contract with qualified vendors to provide the services required to operate the program and with one or more credit-worthy suppliers to provide electricity.

The program operates on a competitive basis, and is self-funded through revenues generated by participating customers — the Town will not need to raise taxes to pay for it.

Harrisville Community Power is well aligned with the objectives of the Town's *Master Plan* in areas of Economic Development, Infrastructure, and Energy. The program's goals are:

- **Competitive Rates & Choices** that must meet or beat those offered by Eversource at launch, plus choices regarding the supply of **renewable energy** and affordable rates;
- **Fiscal Stability & Financial Reserves** to ensure the program is able to maintain competitive rates over time and advance the Town's policy goals over the long-term (e.g. development of local energy resources and programs);
- **Consumer Protections** to ensure contracts entered into are fair, and to represent the Town's interests on energy issues at the New Hampshire Legislature and Public Utilities Commission;
- **Community Resiliency** programs to reduce energy consumption, lower bills, create jobs, and pursue longer-term projects such as building local back-up power supplies; and
- **Cleaner Power** to supply an affordable energy portfolio that prioritizes the use of cost-effective local **renewable energy**.

Per the voters' authorization of the Electric Aggregation Plan:

- Eversource continues its job to deliver electricity to customers, and own and operate the local distribution system (poles, wires, transformers, sub-stations, etc.).
- The Select Board, with advisory support from the Electric Aggregation Committee, will be authorized to contract for the necessary professional services and power supplies to launch Harrisville Community Power; and,
- Participation in Community Power is completely voluntary. After the electricity rates are established, all customers (ratepayers) will be notified. Those not already on competitive supply will be noticed and automatically enrolled, unless they choose to stay with Eversource for electricity supply. Customers on competitive supply may choose to opt-in.

The Electric Aggregation Committee developed this plan with public input and based on its research started in May 2020 — getting under the hood of the utility industry, consulting with experts on the particulars of the legislation, interviewing vendor candidates, and speaking with town representatives throughout the state on similar tracks about community power design and implementation.

Thank you for considering this, we welcome and encourage continuing the dialogue with you,

The Harrisville Electric Aggregation Committee

1. Overview of Harrisville Community Power

Harrisville Community Power is a new program to provide electricity to residents, businesses, and other entities on a competitive basis. Under the program:

- Harrisville Community Power, once operational, will serve as the default electricity supplier within the Town's boundaries and be self-funded through revenues received by participating customers (the Town will not need to raise taxes to pay for it).
- Eversource, the electric distribution company that owns and operates the local distribution system in Harrisville (poles, wires, transformers, substations, etc.), will continue to deliver electricity to customers.
- Harrisville's Select Board, in coordination with advisory support from the Harrisville Electric Aggregation Committee, will be authorized to:
 1. Contract for the necessary services and power supplies on behalf of participating customers;
 2. Set rates for participating customers and make other decisions regarding the program; and
 3. Collaborate with other municipalities to avoid duplicative costs and enhance consumer protections.
 4. Amend this Plan per provision of [RSA 53-E:7](#) as may be warranted and appropriate.
- All customers in Harrisville will be notified and will choose to opt-in or opt-out of participating in the program, as described below:
 1. Customers currently on default service provided by Eversource will be notified, provided the opportunity to decline participation, and thereafter transferred to Harrisville Community Power if they do not opt-out.

Customer notifications will: include the initial fixed rate for the program's default service compared with the Eversource rate, be mailed to customers at least 30 days in advance of program launch, and provide instructions for customers to decline participation (for example, by calling a phone number or using a web portal).
 2. Customers already served by **Competitive Electric Power Suppliers** will be notified and provided the opportunity to opt-in to the program;
 3. New customers will be enrolled automatically onto Harrisville Community Power's default service unless they choose to take service from Eversource or a **Competitive Electric Power Supplier**; and
 4. All customers remain free, at any time, to choose whether to take service from Harrisville Community Power, Eversource, or a **Competitive Electric Power Supplier**.

1a. Purpose of this Electric Aggregation Plan

This Electric Aggregation Plan sets forth Harrisville's policy goals for its Community Power program in alignment with the Town's *Master Plan*, details Harrisville Community Power's program design and implementation processes, and commits Harrisville Community Power to comply with applicable statute and regulation in terms of:

- Providing universal access, reliability, and equitable treatment of all classes of customers subject to any differences arising from varying opportunities, tariffs, and arrangements in Eversource's distribution franchise territory; and
- Meeting, at a minimum, the basic environmental and service standards established by the NH Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and other applicable agencies and laws concerning the provision of service under Community Power.

This plan does not otherwise commit Harrisville Community Power to any defined course of action and does not impose any financial commitment on the Town.

1b. Public Approval Process and Next Steps

This Electric Aggregation Plan was developed by Harrisville's Electric Aggregation Committee with due input from the public, as required under [RSA 53-E](#). Refer to Attachment 2 for a summary of the development process.

The Electric Aggregation Committee determined that this Electric Aggregation Plan satisfies applicable statutory requirements and is in the best, long-term interest of Harrisville and residents, businesses, and other ratepayers. As such, the Select Board submitted this Electric Aggregation Plan for consideration by voters at Town Meeting.

The Plan was adopted as presented at Town Meeting by majority approval of those present and voting, establishing Harrisville Community Power as an approved **aggregation** with statutory authorities defined under [RSA 53-E:3](#) (to be exercised with due oversight and local governance, as described herein).

Regulations governing Community Power were subsequently developed by the PUC. The rules require the Town to submit the approved Electric Aggregation Plan to the Commission in order to:

- Formally notify the Commission that the Town is planning to launch a Community Power program; and
- Authorize the Town to request access to additional customer data from Eversource that will be needed for program implementation and administration.

Decisions regarding how to implement and manage Harrisville Community Power will be made by the Select Board, in coordination with advisory support from the Harrisville Electric Aggregation Committee and to be discussed at duly noticed public meetings.

2. Harrisville Community Power Goals and Objectives

Harrisville Community Power affords the Town the capacity and flexibility to realize and build on *Master Plan* goals pertaining to Economic Development, Infrastructure and Energy. Refer to Attachment 3 for excerpts from the 2014 *Master Plan*.

To leverage the Community Power legislation in support of these goals, the program will be guided by the following objectives:

- **Competitive Rates & Choices:** Harrisville Community Power will only launch if it is able to initially offer default rates that are lower than or competitive with those offered by Eversource, and will additionally offer optional rates with higher and lower levels of carbon-free and/or **renewable energy**;
- **Fiscal Stability & Financial Reserves:** Harrisville Community Power will adopt an Energy Risk Management Policy and deposit a portion of revenues into a reserve fund to ensure that the program remains able to offer competitive rates as market prices fluctuate over time — and is therefore able to achieve Harrisville's longer-term policy goals (such as the development of local energy resources and programs);
- **Enhanced Consumer Protections:** Harrisville Community Power will ensure that the contracts entered into on behalf of customers are fair, and will seek to represent the interests of Harrisville and the program's customers at the legislature and utility regulatory commission on matters pertaining to Community Power and ratepayer protection;
- **Community Resilience:** Harrisville Community Power will support customers in adopting new clean energy technologies and reducing their energy consumption, support training and education programs, and pursue longer-term projects such as building back-up power supplies, electric vehicle charging infrastructure and community microgrids; and

- **Cleaner Power:** Harrisville Community Power will prioritize the development of cost-effective projects to supply an affordable energy portfolio that prioritizes the use of local **renewable energy**.

Harrisville Community Power, in its capacity as the default electricity supplier for the Town, will be positioned to support these goals through strategic initiatives such as:

- Partnering with nearby towns to contract for cost-effective local renewable generation and storage projects, regional electric vehicle charging networks, and other clean energy infrastructure developments;
- Incentivizing customers, through innovative rate structures and local programs, to adopt technologies that reduce peak **loads** (by using power at times when it is cheaper, often when renewables are generating, and thus reducing the cost and carbon content of power overall); and
- Joining with other Community Power programs to advocate for regulations and laws that enhance consumer protections, support **grid** modernization and the development of competitive markets, and remove barriers to the intelligent use of new clean technologies.

Through initiatives like these, Harrisville Community Power will reduce fossil fuel consumption, enhance the reliability of our electricity **grid**, and attract and support local businesses — areas that the Town's Master Plan considers essential to its continued success as a vital, sustainable community.

3. Harrisville Community Power Implementation Guidelines

The following requirements for this Electric Aggregation Plan (EAP), which conform to the statutory compliance requirements outlined in [RSA 53-E:6](#), are addressed below:

- a. Organizational structure of the program;
- b. Methods of entering into and terminating agreements
- c. Operation and funding
- d. Rate setting, costs, and customer enrollment process
- e. Rights and responsibilities of program participants
- f. Net metering and **group net metering** policies
- g. Ensuring discounts for **Electric Assistance Program** participants
- h. Termination of program

3a. Organizational Structure of the Program

Upon approval of this EAP, Harrisville Community Power will be authorized to provide electricity and other related services to participating residents, businesses, and other customers in the Town.

The Select Board will oversee the program and has overall governance authority. Decisions regarding Harrisville Community Power, such as the adoption of Energy Risk Management and Financial Reserve policies and approval of rates, will be made at duly noticed public meetings.

Additionally, and within parameters set by the Select Board, the Electric Aggregation Committee will provide advisory support to the Select Board and may hold regular or ad-hoc meetings to assess program performance, discuss how to evolve the services and products offered to customers, and otherwise address any issues that warrant attention.

3b. Methods of Entering into and Terminating Agreements

This Electric Aggregation Plan authorizes the Select Board to negotiate, enter into, modify, enforce, and terminate agreements as necessary for the implementation and operation of Harrisville Community Power.

3c. Operation and Funding

To ensure the successful launch and operation of Harrisville Community Power, the Select Board will contract with qualified vendors and credit-worthy suppliers to provide the services required to operate the program and with one or more credit-worthy suppliers to provide electricity.

These third-party entities are expected to fund the upfront cost of implementing the program, the expense of which will be amortized and recovered in the program's rates and charges to participating customers. The program may also seek opportunities to apply for grant funding.

Services provided by third-party entities required to launch and operate the program include portfolio risk management advisory services, wholesale **Load Serving Entity (LSE)** services, financial services, electronic data interchange with the utility, customer data management and billing services, customer notification and relationship management (e.g. call center, website, etc.) services, and additional support services such as: management and planning, budgeting and rate setting, local project development support, regulatory compliance, and legislative and regulatory engagement services (on matters that could impact the program and participating customers). Refer to Attachment 4 for additional information on how Harrisville Community Power will implement LSE services.

Harrisville Community Power will provide "all-requirements" electricity supply for its customers, inclusive of all the electrical energy, capacity, reserves, ancillary services, transmission services (unless otherwise provided by the Utility (e.g. Eversource as is the case today)), transmission and distribution losses, congestion management, and other such services or products necessary to provide firm power supply to participants and meet the requirements of New Hampshire's Renewable Portfolio Standard. Electricity supply contracts will be executed or guaranteed by investment-grade entities, and suppliers will be required to use proper standards of management and operations, maintain sufficient insurance, and meet appropriate performance requirements. Refer to Attachment 5 for details regarding the requirements of Renewable Portfolio Standard statute [RSA 362-F](#).

The Select Board may issue one or more competitive solicitations for and contract directly with third parties for the necessary services and electricity supply contracts. The Electric Aggregation Committee interviewed two commercial brokers, which traditionally assist clients in procuring electricity from wholesale suppliers, and which are now offering certain Community Power program management services in New Hampshire.

The Select Board may also choose to contract for services and power supplies jointly, working with other Community Power programs as allowed for under [RSA 53-E:3](#). Such collaborative initiatives are common in the cooperative and public power industry, and provide an advantageous economy-of-scale for participating municipalities while avoiding duplicative overhead costs.

With that in mind, the Committee has interviewed and worked with a group of municipalities that formed a joint action agency to implement and launch Community Power programs across New Hampshire, **Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH)**. CPCNH is organized to operate on a nonprofit basis, be governed by participating Community Power municipalities, and will contract for expert services, provide joint regulatory engagement, and facilitate joint power procurement and project development through a voluntary and flexible membership and cost-sharing structure for participating municipalities.

The commercial brokers and the joint action agency will present differing options and cost structure and are not mutually exclusive. For example, Harrisville Community Power may join as a member of the joint action agency to contract for certain services jointly, and contract with a commercial **broker** for other services directly.

Additionally, [RSA 53-E](#) provides Community Power programs with authorities pertaining to meter ownership, meter reading, billing, and other related services. These authorities provide Harrisville Community Power with the practical ability to help customers adopt and use innovative technologies (e.g. intelligent thermostats, backup battery storage systems, controllable electric vehicle chargers, etc.) in ways that save money, enhance **grid** resiliency and decarbonize our power supply. However, the implementation of these authorities is expected to take some time, as it requires action by the PUC to adopt enabling rules and coordination with Eversource to adapt existing meter and billing system processes.

The Select Board will determine how best to implement and operate Harrisville Community Power, taking into consideration the profile, qualifications, and capacity of these third parties to achieve the full benefits and program goals and objectives as set forth in this Electric Aggregation Plan.

3d. Rate Setting, Costs, Enrollment Process, and Options

The Select Board will adopt an Energy Risk Management Policy and Financial Reserve policies to govern the program's power procurement and rate-setting decisions.

Rates will be set at a level such that revenues from participating customers are projected to be sufficient to cover ongoing operating and capital costs of the program. Changes to the program's default service rates shall be set and publicly noticed at least 30 days in advance of any rate change.

Additionally, in the event that any rate change is related to a regulatory event (such as an increase in New Hampshire's Renewable Portfolio Standard requirements) or new taxes or surcharges that suppliers become obligated to recover, Harrisville Community Power will also notify the PUC Consumer Services and External Affairs Division prior to implementation of the rate change.

Harrisville Community Power will only launch if it is able to offer default rates that are initially lower than or competitive with those offered by Eversource; thereafter, the program will strive to maintain competitive rates while working to achieve the program's goals as set forth in this Electric Aggregation Plan. Refer to Attachment 6 for an example of a multi-tier rate.

To ensure the fiscal stability of Harrisville Community Power, a portion of revenues will be deposited in a financial reserve account and used to:

- **In the near-term**, maintain competitive customer rates in the context of price fluctuations in the electricity market and other factors;
- **In the medium term**, as collateral for power purchase agreements (including for the development of new renewable projects), and for additional credit enhancements and purposes that lower the program's cost of service; and
- **Over the long term**, may also be used to fund other program financial requirements, or to augment the financing for development of new projects and programs in the later years of the program, subject to the Select Board's approval.

As required by law, the program will set rates that ensure the equitable treatment of all classes of customers, subject to any differences arising from varying opportunities, tariffs, and arrangements in Eversource's distribution franchise territory. In other words, customers will be treated the same based on their circumstances. For example, any customers that opt-in after being offered the opportunity to participate during the initial enrollment period may be offered rates that reflect how market prices have changed in the intervening period.

Customers who choose not to participate in Harrisville Community Power shall not be responsible for any costs associated with the program apart from incidental costs incurred by the Town prior to the point at which the program starts producing revenue from participating customers (for example, contract review by an attorney).

After approval of this Electric Aggregation Plan but before the launch of Harrisville Community Power, all customers in the Town will be sent notifications regarding the program and offered the opportunity to participate:

- **Customers currently on default service provided by Eversource** will be sent “opt-out” notifications — describing the program, its implications for the Town, the rights and responsibilities of customers, and program rates and charges — with instructions on how to decline participation, and thereafter transferred to Harrisville Community Power if they don't opt-out. Table 1 shows the total number and electricity usage of customers within Harrisville's territory who would receive this “opt- out” notification.
- **Customers already served by Competitive Electric Power Suppliers (CEPS)** will receive “opt-in” notifications describing the program and will be allowed to opt-in to the program. Table 2 shows the total number and electricity usage of customers within Harrisville's territory who would receive this “opt-in” notification.

Optional products, such as increased renewable power content in excess of the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) requirements, and other energy services may be offered on an opt-up, opt-in basis.

Customers will be notified through a mailing, which will be posted not less than 30 days prior to the enrollment of any customers. All information will be repeated and posted at the Town's Community Power website. A public information meeting will be held within 15 days of the notification to answer program questions or provide clarification.

After launch, new customers will be provided with the default service rates of Eversource and Harrisville Community Power, and will automatically be enrolled onto Harrisville Community Power's default service unless they choose to be served by Eversource or a **CEPS**.

All customers will remain free, at any time, to choose whether to take service from Harrisville Community Power, Eversource or a **CEPS**.

Table 1. Customers Eligible for Automatic Enrollment		
(Served by Eversource default utility service, July 2020)		
	Customer Count	Annual Usage (MWh)
Municipal	0	0
Residential	657	2798
Commercial & Industrial	90	322
Total	747	3120

Table 2. Customers Eligible for Voluntary Enrollment		
(Served by non-utility Competitive Electric Power Suppliers, July 2020)		
	Customer Count	Annual Usage (MWh)
Municipal	1	60
Residential	144	752
Commercial & Industrial	20	242.5
Total	165	1054.5

Aggregated data shown in Tables 1 and 2 was provided by Eversource in July 2020.

3e. Rights and Responsibilities of Program Participants

Residents, businesses, and other electricity customers within Harrisville's jurisdiction may opt- into or opt-out of participating in Harrisville Community Power at any time, by submitting adequate notice in advance of the next regular meter reading by the distribution utility (in the same manner as if they were on utility provided default service or as approved by the PUC).

All participants will have available to them the customer protection provisions of the law and regulations of New Hampshire, including the right to question billing and service quality practices.

Customers will be able to ask questions of and register complaints with the Town, Eversource, and the PUC.

Harrisville Community Power shall maintain the confidentiality of individual customer data in compliance with its obligations as a service provider under [RSA 363:38](#) (privacy policies for individual customer data; duties and responsibilities of service providers) and other applicable statutes and PUC rules. Confidential data includes individual customers' name, service address, billing address, telephone number, account number, payment information, and electricity consumption. This data will not be subject to public disclosure under [RSA 91-A](#) (access to governmental records and meetings). Suppliers and vendors for Harrisville Community Power will be contractually required to maintain the confidentiality of individual customer data pursuant to [RSA 363:38](#), V(b).

Refer to Attachment 7 for details about the reasonable security procedures and practices that the Town and Harrisville Community Power will employ to protect individual customer data from unauthorized access, use, destruction, modification, or disclosure.

Aggregate or anonymized data that does not compromise confidentiality of individual customers may be released at the discretion of Harrisville Community Power, but only as might be permitted and as may be limited or restricted by governing law or regulation.

Participants will continue to be responsible for paying their bills. Harrisville Community Power will not turn off power for non-payment of utility bills. Failure to pay Harrisville Community Power bills may result in a customer being transferred to Eversource (the regulated electric distribution company, known as provider of last resort) for default energy service, payment collections and shut-offs under procedures subject to oversight by the PUC.

Participants are responsible for requesting any exemption from the collection of any applicable taxes and must provide appropriate documentation of such exemption to Harrisville Community Power.

3f. Net Metering and Group Net Metering Policies

Customers with on-site generation eligible for **net energy metering** (NEM) from Eversource will be offered a NEM rate from Harrisville Community Power.

Net energy metering allows for customers with certain qualified distributed generation to be billed on the basis of their net energy consumption. Customers with rooftop photovoltaic solar systems, for example, often generate more power than they consume during the middle of the day, and more power during the summer than in the winter; under a NEM tariff, such customers may be directly compensated for this excess generation or may be credited such that their surplus generation offsets their consumption over the course of the month or year.

Community Power programs have the statutory authority to "*determine the terms, conditions, and prices under which they agree to provide generation supply to and credit, as an offset to supply, or purchase the generation output exported to the distribution grid from eligible [NEM customers]*". Furthermore, a new provision of this statute clarified that "*such output shall be accounted for as a reduction to the*

[Competitive Electric Power Supplier or Community Power program's] wholesale load obligation for energy supply.” (RSA 362-A:9, II)

This latest revision went into effect on September 15, 2020, and was particularly important for Harrisville Community Power. As context:

- While it is intuitive that surplus NEM customer generation would offset (lower) wholesale power purchases, non-utility suppliers were not being appropriately credited for the power produced by customers. Non-utility suppliers were consequently made to pay twice, in two different ways, for the surplus power generated by customers:
 1. Non-utility suppliers had to compensate NEM customers for surplus generation in their supply rates and were simultaneously required to purchase the same amount of power from the wholesale market; and
 2. For NEM customers on the “alternative” NEM tariff (explained on the next page) non-utility suppliers then also had to purchase additional **Renewable Energy Credits** (also known as renewable energy certificates, or RECs) to comply with the **Renewable Portfolio Standard** (RPS) — based on the amount of surplus power being generated by such customers (but not appropriately credited to the supplier), even though this power was renewable.
- To a large extent, this convoluted situation arose because of the ways in which utilities, including Eversource, were not properly tracking and crediting surplus customer generation back to **Competitive Electric Power Suppliers (CEPS)**.
- As a consequence, few to no **CEPS** have been able to offer competitive NEM rates to-date — and absent this revision, Harrisville Community Power would have found it difficult to do so as well.

NEM is undergoing significant and necessary revisions due to evolving statutory requirements and PUC proceedings, and the practical capabilities of Eversource’s billing and data management systems to accommodate **CEPS** and Community Power programs in offering NEM generation rates to their customers.

Harrisville Community Power’s objective is to fairly compensate participating NEM customers for the generation supply component of the bill, and to have Eversource’s NEM tariff apply to and compensate customers for the utility’s portion of the bill (transmission and distribution). To the extent that utility systems, business processes and PUC regulations governing provision of **net energy metering** to Community Power program customers are unresolved, Harrisville Community Power will work with Eversource, the PUC and other Community Power programs to establish enabling rules and a **net energy metering** tariff that accomplishes this objective.

Eversource’s billing system, in particular, has been set up to process NEM customer credits and payments in accordance with the utility’s own NEM tariffs. This may limit ability Harrisville Community Power’s ability to offer innovative and cost-effective NEM rates or require such rates to be billed, credited, and accounted for by Harrisville’s Community Power’s vendor outside of Eversource’s billing system. As context, Eversource manages billing for customers on “standard” and “alternative” NEM rates.

Eversource Standard (or traditional) Net Metering:

- Applies to customers that installed generation prior to September 1, 2017.
- Calculates surplus generation in excess of consumption on a monthly basis;
- Carries forward surplus generation as a kilowatt-hour credit that reduces the customer’s usage in future months (i.e., the meter “spins backwards”) — and reimburses customers for any credits that remain at the end of the year at a rate set by the PUC (~3-4¢ per kilowatt-hour).

Eversource Alternative Net Metering:

- Applies to customers that installed generation after September 1, 2017.
- Calculates generation in excess of consumption on a monthly basis;

- Provides customers a monetary credit each month that accrues and is periodically paid out over the course of the year.

Refer to Attachment 8 for a more detailed overview of Eversource's recent NEM tariffs.

In accordance with these tariffs, Eversource only provides NEM customers that installed generation after September 1, 2017 with "alternative" net metering. One potential risk is that Eversource's billing system may only allow Harrisville Community Power to offer NEM generation rates that are structured in an identical fashion. This would prevent the program from offering different NEM generation rates — including, for example, crediting excess generation in the same way that "standard" net metering used to provide customers, or more dynamic rates and innovative compensation schemes going forward — and could therefore diminish Harrisville Community Power's ability to offer customers the most cost-effective NEM options.

In this event, Harrisville Community Power may seek to contract with vendors capable of billing NEM customers directly, and otherwise capable of incorporating NEM surplus generation impacts into the program's wholesale power purchases and Renewable Portfolio Standard compliance requirements, so that the program is able to offer the most cost-effective NEM rates to customers.

For NEM customers that are not qualified to produce **RECs**, Harrisville Community Power may also seek a vendor that can install the necessary metering and qualify the customer to generate RECs in exchange for receiving some portion of those RECs. Such an arrangement might increase the compensation rate for exports to the **grid** by such customers.

Regardless, the exact terms, conditions, and rates for compensating or crediting net metered customers, including group net metered hosts and participants, will be set at duly noticed public meetings and fully disclosed to all prospective NEM customers through the opt-out notification process and otherwise.

3g. Ensuring Discounts for Electric Assistance Program Participants

Income eligible households can qualify for discounts on their electric bills under the **Electric Assistance Program**. Harrisville Community Power will support income eligible customers who enroll in the **Electric Assistance Program** to receive their discount.

Electric Assistance Program discounts are funded by all ratepayers as part of the **System Benefits Charge**, which is charged to customers and collected by the distribution utilities. At present, the PUC and utilities only support provision of the discount when the customer's electricity supply charges are billed through the utility.

Harrisville Community Power consequently plans to rely on Eversource to bill all customer accounts enrolled in the **Electric Assistance Program**. This represents no change in the provision or funding of this program.

This arrangement may be revisited if and when the PUC approves rules that enable Community Power programs to provide **Electric Assistance Program** customers with their discount directly.

3h. Termination of the Program

There is no planned termination date for Harrisville Community Power.

Harrisville Community Power may be terminated by majority approval of those present and voting at Town Meeting. If so terminated, participating customers would be transferred to default service provided by Eversource, unless they elect to take service from a **Competitive Electric Power Supplier**.

Harrisville Community Power will provide as much advance notice as possible regarding the potential or planned termination of the program to participating customers, the PUC, and Eversource.

Upon termination, the balance of any funds accrued in the program's financial reserve fund and other accounts, if any, would be available for distribution or application as directed by the Select Board and in accordance with any applicable law and regulation.