

# **Stratham Community Power Plan Attachments**

## Attachment 1: The Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire, as of 5-3-23

Stratham is a member of the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (“CPCNH” or “the Coalition”), a nonprofit joint powers agency authorized under RSA 53-A and governed by participating communities under the terms of the Joint Powers Agreement.

The Coalition is an all-requirements Joint Powers Agency incorporated as a government instrumentality and non-profit on October 1st, 2021, to provide for the launch and operation of Community Power Aggregation (CPA) programs on behalf of our Members throughout the state. CPCNH launched power supply services in April and May of 2023.

CPCNH’s participating local governments Members share the administrative and general costs of CPCNH on a pro-rata basis, and may elect to share costs, on an individual basis, for operational services, pooled power purchases, and energy project development contracts. CPCNH also engages at the Legislature and Public Utilities Commission on behalf of its members on matters related to energy and Community Power.

CPCNH benefits its Member communities by providing for the delivery of cleaner and more locally produced electricity, innovative retail distributed energy and demand flexibility programs, policy engagement and public advocacy, competitive rates for residents, businesses, and municipal facility customers, and economic investment through the development of local programs, projects, and energy infrastructure.

CPCNH operates across all four distribution company service territories in the state: Eversource, Unitil, Liberty Utilities and the New Hampshire Electric Co-Op.

CPCNH is locally controlled, governed by Board of appointed community representatives, and is funded through customer revenues, with no taxpayer subsidies. By law, each member’s CPA program is funded through program revenues; CPCNH’s budget is completely separate from the general funds of participating local governments.

Meetings of CPCNH’s Board and committees are subject to New Hampshire’s Right to Know Law and open to the public.

### Governance Structure

CPCNH is governed in accordance with our Joint Powers Agreement, and overseen by a Board of Directors composed of the representatives appointed by participating local governments.

The Board of 20 Directors is elected by vote of the Members at the Annual Membership Meeting in April. Committees are:

1. **Executive Committee:** Meetings of CPCNH’s Chair, immediate past-chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary. Authorized to act on behalf of the Board, on most matters, in instances where decisions may not wait until the next meeting of the Board.

2. **Audit Committee:** Oversees the quality and integrity of the Corporation’s accounting, auditing and reporting practices, and causes an independent financial report of the accounts and records of the Corporation to be made by a certified public accountant each fiscal year, which is provided to Directors and to Members at the Annual Meeting.
3. **Governance Committee:** Assists the Members in recruitment of Board Directors; determines eligibility of nominees for consideration of Directorship; monitors the effective functioning of the Board and committees; conducts regular Board orientations and evaluations; periodically review and recommend amendments to the Joint Powers Agreement.
4. **Finance Committee:** Responsible for advising the Treasurer and the Board as to the investments, budget, and general fiscal policy of CPCNH.
5. **Member Outreach & Engagement Committee:** Responsible for supporting and facilitating Member engagement, education, and collaboration across the Membership, present and future, and providing a forum for the Members to interact with one another and with the organization.
6. **Risk Management Committee:** Responsible for overseeing energy portfolio risk management procurement decisions, and for understanding and advising upon enterprise risk factors and mitigating strategies more broadly.
7. **Regulatory and Legislative Affairs Committee:** Responsible for monitoring and advising CPCNH and its Members regarding regulatory and legislative engagement, and for appointing representatives of the Corporation to serve on statutory commissions, study commissions, and other boards and commissions created by the state legislature.

## Members and Service Territory

CPCNH is formed by 33 current municipal and county members, which represent more than 20% of New Hampshire’s population. The following thirteen “**Wave 1**” Members launched service in Spring 2023:

- The cities of Lebanon, Nashua and Portsmouth; and the towns of Canterbury, Durham, Enfield, Exeter, Hanover, Harrisville, Peterborough, Plainfield, Rye, and Walpole.

The following eight “**Wave 2**” Members adopted Community Power Plans locally in 2023 and are positioned to launch service in spring 2024:

- The towns of Hancock, Hudson, Newmarket, New London, Pemboke, Warner, Webster, Westmoreland.

**Cheshire County** is a founding Member of CPCNH, and is preparing to launch the state’s first County Aggregation.

Several Members from New Hampshire’s Androscoggin River Valley and the **Androscoggin Valley Energy Collaborative** are planning to develop the state’s first regional Community Power Aggregation, including:

- The City of Berlin, and the towns of Randolph and Shelburne.

Additional recent members preparing Community Power Plans and future launch of service include:

- The towns of Boscawen, Brentwood, Lyme, Rollinsford, Stratham, Sugar Hill, and Wilmot.

At full enrollment of the current membership, CPCNH may serve ~110,000 customer accounts, provide ~900,000 MWh of electricity, and produce well over \$100 million in annual revenues.

Over 30 additional local governments have expressed interest in joining CPCNH, which would increase representation to ~50% of New Hampshire's population.

CPCNH subsequently expects relatively robust member recruitment, and the launch of dozens of new CPA programs in next two to three years.

### Organizational Capacity

The Coalition's Board, committees, and executive team bring a great breadth and depth of experience to the organization with professional backgrounds that support CPCNH's mission.

CPCNH is also supported by outside General Counsel (Michael Postar of DWGP, P.C. with local New Hampshire counsel provided by Eli Emerson of Primer Piper, P.C.). CPCNH design, start-up, and launch phases were supported by two professional consultants (Henry Herndon of Herndon Enterprises and Samuel Golding of Community Choice Partners).

In 2022, CPCNH has concluded a competitive solicitation for services and credit support and executed contracts for \$750,000 in startup funding, and several millions of dollars in credit support and professional services to operate the power agency and expand CPCNH's membership:

- **Ascend Analytics:** for energy portfolio risk management and procurement services.
- **Calpine Energy Solutions:** for Load Serving Entity services, startup funding support, and retail customer services (utility electronic data interchange (EDI), retail data management, and call center operations).
- **River City Bank:** for secure revenue "lockbox" account administration and various commercial banking services.
- **Clean Energy NH:** for community and media engagement and support.

CPCNH's committee award reports and winning response materials are online.<sup>2</sup>

### Staffing Strategy

In May 2023, CPCNH on-board its Chief Executive Officer who was identified as a result a rigorous and nationally competitive search process. The Board will support the CEO in filling key functional roles with highly qualified staff in managerial positions to provide oversight and initiative that guide's the evolution of the agency.

CPCNH anticipates that the CEO will recommend prioritizing staff capacity in the follow areas of expertise:

- **Financial Management:** Treasury support, budgeting, cash flow analysis, rate setting, financial controls and compliance, and reserve management.

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<sup>2</sup> CPCNH Public RFP Response Material:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17i\\_JcBRu\\_47t0fNKdjCpTLW6XtuPXwzu](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17i_JcBRu_47t0fNKdjCpTLW6XtuPXwzu)

- **Member Operations and Engagement:** Supporting CPCNH's Members to fully realize the objectives and potential of their Community Power programs.
- **Retail Services:** retail customer products and services, key account management and retention, and local programs.
- **Energy Portfolio Management:** contract valuation, procurement, power purchase agreements, portfolio strategy, and energy risk management analytics and reporting.
- **Information Technology:** enterprise data management and analytics.
- **Regulatory and Legislative Affairs:** engagement with the Legislature, NH Department of Energy, Office of the Public Advocate, Public Utility Commission, distribution utilities, and other stakeholders on energy policy and market issues impacting CPAs.

## Regulatory and Legislative Engagement

CPCNH carries out public information campaigns and routinely engages at the Legislature and Public Utilities Commission, often alongside the NH Office of Consumer Advocate, to advance consumer interests and protect and expand the authorities of our Members. Board Chair Clifton Below, Assistant Mayor of the City of Lebanon, often leads the agency's regulatory and legislative engagement activities.

## Purpose, Mission, Values & Power Enterprise Objectives

CPCNH is guided by the requirements and processes provided for under our Joint Powers Agreement, the decisions of our Members and Board of Directors, and the considerations that operating a competitive power enterprise entails.

### *Purpose of CPCNH*

The overarching objective of CPCNH is provided for in the Joint Powers Agreement:

*The purpose of CPCNH is to promote the common good and general welfare by supporting the economic vitality and prosperity of local communities by enabling municipalities and counties to support and jointly exercise authorities granted to them pursuant to NH RSA 33-B, NH RSA 53-E, NH RSA 53-F, and NH RSA 374-D, all in accordance with NH RSA 53-A; to assist member municipalities and counties in complying with the provisions of NH RSA 53-E in developing and implementing Electric Aggregation Plans and Programs known as Community Power Aggregations ("CPAs"); to provide supportive services and technical assistance to community power aggregations serving member towns, cities, counties, unincorporated places, and village districts; and to support and promote public education and civic engagement by the residents and businesses of member communities in developing and implementing energy and climate policies and actions and the role of CPAs in advancing such policies and actions for the common good.*

### *Mission and Values*

CPCNH's Board of Directors has subsequently adopted the mission and values below:

*Our mission is to foster resilient New Hampshire communities by empowering them to realize their energy goals. CPCNH will create value for our Community Power member municipalities by jointly contracting for services, developing projects and programs together, educating and*

*engaging the public, and advocating for communities and customers at the Legislature and Public Utilities Commission.*

In carrying out its activities, CPCNH is guided by the following values:

- 1. Embody an inspiring vision for New Hampshire's energy future.*
- 2. Support communities to reduce energy costs and pursue economic vitality by harnessing the power of competitive markets and innovation.*
- 3. Support communities to implement successful energy and climate policies and to promote the transition to a carbon neutral energy system.*
- 4. Balance the interests of member communities who are diverse in demographics, geography and their energy goals.*
- 5. Use our shared expertise, leadership and skills to educate, empower and build the capacities of our members.*
- 6. Help communities demystify the power sector to make informed decisions.*
- 7. Facilitate collaboration and teamwork by championing diversity, equity and inclusion of people and communities of all kinds.*

#### *Power Enterprise Objectives*

CPCNH's immediate objectives in implementing CPA supply service in April to May 2023 were summarized in the Coalition's prior solicitation for services and credit support:

*While many of the broader benefits that CPCNH intends to create will be developed over time, the agency's immediate objectives are to:*

- 1. Procure a reliable supply of all-requirements electricity, inclusive of Renewable Portfolio Standard requirements, and satisfy all load-serving entity obligations on behalf of participating customers.*
- 2. Launch with default supply rates that "meet or beat" utility default service rates and maintain competitive default supply rates thereafter.*
- 3. Accrue reserve funds sufficient to ensure Members' long-term financial stability.*
- 4. Offer voluntary products that retail customers may opt-up to receive as well as Net Energy Metering supply rates that allow customer-generators to participate in the program.*
- 5. Ensure individual customers have excellent customer service experience every time they interact with CPCNH regarding their electric service and all account transactions.*
- 6. Guarantee that individual customer data is secure and protected against third party attacks, data breaches and inappropriate use.*

#### *Coalition Energy Portfolio Risk Management, Rates, and Reserves Policies*

The Coalition's Members expect the agency to balance customer rate levels, renewable power content, and the accrual of program reserves on behalf of Member programs to meet their local policy objectives. The Board of Directors is incorporating these considerations and trade-offs regarding the prudent allocation of revenues into Energy Portfolio Risk Management, Rates, and

Reserves policies, summarized as follows:

- **Energy Portfolio Risk Management Policy:** defines the risks associated with the procurement of the power supply, identifies those responsible for administering the various elements of the risk management policy (from procurement through daily operations and oversight), and sets policy parameters for managing, monitoring, and reporting on the risks associated with procuring and hedging the power supply portfolio. The policy will define the requirements and limits within which Members delegate their procurement authority to CPCNH.
- **Rates Policy:** ensures rates are set in a timely fashion to recover capital and operating costs of Member programs and that public notice and customer communication activities remain in compliance with statutory and Member Electricity Aggregation Plan requirements.
- **Financial Reserves Policy:** sets appropriate target levels (e.g., minimum and maximum contributions) to ensure CPCNH satisfies working capital requirements, procures energy at competitive rates, adheres to contractual covenants, covers unanticipated expenditures, supports rate stability, and progresses towards obtaining an investment grade credit rating. Member contributions to reserves will be tracked, and provided back to Members, pursuant to any contractual obligations, if and when they choose to cease participating in the Coalition.

### Member Cost Sharing Agreement

The Coalition's Joint Powers Agreement provides certain requirements regarding how costs will be tracked and shared across participating Community Power programs, which must be formalized in a Cost Sharing Agreement executed with each Member before the Coalition may provide services for their Community Power program, as follows:

- Costs will be tracked in three distinct categories: direct project costs, member services, and general and administrative costs (which are overhead costs that are not associated with any specific project or member service).
- Member cost-sharing agreements will be the same in all material respects: general and administrative costs will be allocated based on each Community Power program's share of total electricity usage each year, while each member will choose and separately pay for the costs of specific services and projects (under terms that reflect a fair allocation across all the members that chose the same services and projects).
- The debts, liabilities and obligations of the Coalition, and of other participating Community Power programs, will be non-recourse to Member communities (unless expressly agreed to by the Member under their Cost Sharing Agreement or a Project Contract).

## Attachment 2: Stratham Community Power Net Metering, Group Net Metering and Low-Moderate Income Solar Project Opportunities

Under the Net Energy Metering (NEM) process, customers who install renewable generation or qualifying combined heat and power systems up to 1,000 kilowatts in size are eligible to receive credit or compensation for any electricity generated onsite in excess of their onsite usage.

Any surplus generation produced by these systems flows back into the distribution grid and offsets the electricity that would otherwise have to be purchased from the regional wholesale market to serve other customers.

The table below compares New Hampshire's two NEM tariff structures, which offer different credits to customers depending on the size of their installed system:

### **Net Energy Metering (NEM) Credit on Net Monthly Exports to Grid**

	<b>NEM 1.0</b> <i>"Standard NEM"</i> <i>Offered prior to 9/1/2017</i>	<b>NEM 2.0</b> <i>"Alternative NEM"</i> <i>Effective 9/1/2017</i>
<b>Large Systems</b> <i>100 Kilowatts to 1 Megawatt</i>	Full credit (at the customer's retail rate) for electricity supply <u>only</u>	
<b>Small Systems</b> <i>≤ 100 Kilowatts</i>	Full credit for electricity supply, distribution, transmission, System Benefits, Stranded Cost & Storm Recovery charges	Full credit for electricity supply and transmission; 25% credit for distribution & no credit for other charges

[RSA 362-A:9, II](#) grants Community Power programs broad statutory authority to offer customer-generators new supply rates and terms for the generation supply component of Net Energy Metering (NEM). The relevant statutory authority is quoted in full below:

*"Competitive electricity suppliers registered under RSA 374-F:7 and municipal or county aggregators under RSA 53-E 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 customer-generators. The commission may require appropriate disclosure of such terms, conditions, and prices or credits. Such output shall be accounted for as a reduction to the customer-generators' electricity supplier's wholesale load obligation for energy supply as a load service entity, net of any applicable line loss adjustments, as approved by the commission. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as limiting or otherwise interfering with the provisions or authority for municipal or county aggregators under RSA 53-E, including, but not limited to, the terms and conditions for net metering."*



Stratham Community Power intends to offer a NEM generation rate and terms to customers with onsite renewable generation eligible for net metering from Unitil. Note that any non-supply related components of the Net Energy Metering tariff (e.g., credits for transmission and distribution) will continue to be provided to customer-generators directly by their utility.

How Stratham Community Power calculates, accounts for and provides NEM credits to participating customer-generators for the different types of eligible system sizes, customer types and group configurations will have a number of important financial and practical implications for the program and customers in the Town.

Stratham Community Power will work closely with Unitil on the process of transferring NEM customers with regard to metering, billing and data management requirements of this subset of customers. Stratham Community Power will maintain close coordination with Unitil to expeditiously resolve any NEM issues that may occur.

For example, Stratham Community Power may decide bills should be separately issued to customers that have installed systems after September 2017.

The advantage in dual-billing this subset of customers stems from what is essentially an accounting irregularity in how Unitil's billing system and PUC policies currently treat customer-generators taking service under the NEM 1.0 tariff, which applies to systems installed before September 2017, versus the NEM 2.0 tariff, which applies to all systems installed after that date. As context:

- The cumulative surplus generation exports of net metered customer-generators will decrease the amount of electricity that Stratham Community Power will have to purchase from the regional power market to supply other customers in the program. The surplus generation from both NEM 1.0 and NEM 2.0 customer-generators will be tracked and netted out from the program's wholesale load obligations by Unitil for this purpose.
- However, for the purpose of netting out of the program's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) compliance requirements, the surplus generation from NEM 1.0 customers is tracked and accounted for differently than it is for NEM 2.0 customers:
  - Surplus generation from NEM 1.0 customers is tracked as a kWh credit that is carried forward to offset the customer's future electricity supply requirements; these kWh credits will be counted as an offset that decreases the total electricity supplied by the program to retail customers in aggregate — which lowers the program's RPS compliance obligation.
  - Surplus generation from NEM 2.0 customers is tracked as a monetary credit that is carried forward to offset the customer's future electricity bills; even though the monetary credit is calculated each month based on every customer's kWh surplus generation, the monetary credit is treated as a re-sale or delivery of power generated by NEM 2.0 customer and provided to other participating customers through the program — it is not treated, in other words, as an offset that decreases the total electricity supplied by program to retail customers in aggregate — and therefore does not lower RPS compliance obligations in the same way.

The practical consequence of this accounting treatment is that Stratham Community Power would have to purchase Renewable Energy Certificates for the amount of surplus generation

supplied by NEM 2.0 customer-generators (but not NEM 1.0 customer-generators) in the same way as if the program had imported that amount of electricity from the regional wholesale market.

- Taking on the responsibility of billing this subset of NEM 2.0 customers directly may allow Stratham Community Power to track and account for the impact of their surplus generation in ways that lower the program's RPS compliance obligations and costs. Specifically, the program could credit customers currently on the utility's NEM 2.0 tariff in the same way that NEM 1.0 customers are credited (i.e., using kWh credits to track surplus generation on the supply portion of the bill). Note that RSA 362-A:9,II explicitly grants Community Power programs the flexibility to offer net metered customers either:
  - A *"credit, as an offset to supply"* for their surplus generation, which is equivalent to the NEM 1.0 tariff accounting practices; or
  - To *"purchase the generation output exported"* which is equivalent to how the NEM 2.0 tariff tracks surplus generation.

Exercising the first option listed above, by offering NEM 2.0 customers a kWh credit tracked as an offset to supply, would allow Stratham Community Power to harmonize the accounting treatment of NEM 1.0 and 2.0 surplus generation for the purpose of program RPS compliance reporting. This would help lower program rates and is an option that the program may therefore find cost-effective to implement.

Additionally, certain customer-generators currently receiving IRS Form 1099 taxable income from monetary credits under Unitil' NEM 2.0 tariff may benefit financially from receiving kWh credits for the supply portion of their monthly surplus generation instead.

While dual billing is typically avoided — as it is less convenient for most customers to receive a separate bill from their utility and supplier — customers with onsite generation systems tend to be highly informed on energy issues and respond positively to more active engagement with both their utility and supplier.

Consequently, dual billing may enhance customer satisfaction, awareness and ongoing participation in the program for customer-generators. Furthermore, dual billing could be done electronically, which is more convenient for the customer and will be less costly for the program than sending paper bills.

Furthermore, Stratham Community Power may be able to create additional value for customer-generators through a combination of dual billing, assistance with metering upgrades and time-varying rate structures. For example:

- Many customer-generators with solar systems may benefit from local programs that help them reduce their full energy bill costs;
- Providing the customer with a separate supply-only bill would allow Stratham Community Power to also offer a time-varying rate (which may not otherwise be available through Unitil' billing system);
- Upgrading to an interval meter (if the customer does not have one) and installing onsite battery storage, combined with a time-varying rate, may enable the customer-generator to further lower their overall bill by shifting their pattern of electricity usage at times of high-power prices and constrained generation and transmission capacity. This could also help to

manage and lower the program's electricity supply costs in aggregate as well, and thus benefits all participating customers.

Similarly, Stratham Community Power may be able to streamline the process and cost of installing REC production meters for customer-generators that don't already have one. By registering customer-generators and purchasing their RECs for their onsite power generation Stratham Community Power could use them to satisfy part of the program's overall RPS compliance requirements. This would allow the program to source RECs locally and would provide an additional source of revenue for customer-generators in the Town.

Stratham Community Power also intends to evaluate ways to enhance the value of the NEM credits that customers receive overall, from both the program and Unitil. For example, customer-generators may benefit by becoming hosts in Group Net Metering, including by establishing a Low-Moderate Income Solar Project group. The program may be able to streamline the process required to do so, which entails:

- Matching customers interested in becoming members with prospective group hosts;
- Executing a Group Net Metering Agreement together;
- Registering the group with the Public Utilities Commission and Unitil; and
- Thereafter filing annual compliance reports.

Lastly, NEM tariffs are subject to revision and Stratham Community Power, through the Coalition, intends to work with Unitil, participate in Public Utilities Commission proceedings and engage at the Legislature on issues that impact how the tariffs evolve going forward.

Customers are increasingly adopting new energy technologies and expect to be offered rates and services that provide them with new choices and fair compensation based on their investment; the program's ability to assist customers in these ways is heavily dependent on how state policies and utility regulations evolve over time.

Stratham Community Power will seek to represent the interests of our community and customers in these matters.

## Attachment 3: How Load Serving Entity Services will be Implemented

Stratham Community Power will implement Load Serving Entity (LSE) services, for the purpose of procuring or selling electricity on behalf of customers participating in the aggregation.

### The Role & Responsibility of Load Serving Entities

A Load Serving Entity (LSE) is an entity that has registered with ISO New England (ISO-NE, the non-profit regional wholesale electricity market operator) as a market participant and assumes responsibility for securing and selling electric energy and related services to serve the demand of retail customers at the distribution level (i.e., homes and businesses).

As context, every retail customer in New Hampshire (and across New England) is assigned to a specific Load Serving Entity at all times:

- Customers on utility default service are periodically re-assigned to whichever Competitive Supplier has won the utility's most recent auction or the utility as LSE.
- Similarly, customers are assigned to a different Load Serving Entity whenever they are transferred to Community Power Aggregator (CPA) service on an opt-out default basis, choose to opt-in to take service from the CPA, or switch to a Competitive Supplier of their choosing.

Consequently, all Competitive Suppliers and CPAs in New Hampshire are required to either:

1. Register as a Load Serving Entity with ISO-NE; or
2. Contract with a third-party that has agreed to be the Load Serving Entity responsible for the Competitive Supplier's or CPA's customers.

To ensure that customers receive firm power supply, there are a variety of services that need to be performed and electrical products that must be procured or otherwise provided. The required products and services are referred to as "all requirements energy" (or alternatively, "full requirements service").

The role of Load Serving Entities is to provide, arrange for, or otherwise pay for the cost of providing all requirements energy to customers. The majority of these requirements are defined by the ISO-NE wholesale market operator, which is subject to Federal oversight, but certain requirements are defined by the state in which the LSE registers to serve customers (Renewable Portfolio Standard requirements, for example).

In New Hampshire, full-requirements energy is defined as the provision or cost of (1) electrical energy, capacity, and reserves (including transmission and distribution losses); (2) ancillary services, congestion management, and transmission services (to the extent not already provided by the customer's utility); (3) the costs associated with complying with New Hampshire's Renewable Portfolio Standard (i.e., the cost of purchasing Renewable Energy Credits or, if an insufficient number of credits is procured, the cost of Alternative Compliance Payments); and (4) other services or products necessary to provide firm power supply to customers (i.e., because the definition and requirements of the above products and services are subject to change over time).

Each of the above products and services is procured, provided, and accounted for in different ways, through market mechanisms and regulated processes that have been designed to accommodate the unique characteristics of the product or service in question.

Given the complex and capital-intensive nature of providing all requirements electricity to customers, Load Serving Entities are subject to significant state and Federal oversight, in terms of registration, reporting, and financial security requirements.

The web pages below provide current information regarding Load Serving Entity registration, financial security, and renewal requirements to operate in ISO-NE and New Hampshire:

- ISO-NE: [New Participant Registration Instructions](#)
- NH PUC: [Forms for Competitive Electric Power Suppliers and Electric Load Aggregators](#)
- Eversource: [Electric Information for Suppliers & Aggregators](#)
- Unitil: [Energy Supplier Resources](#)
- Liberty Utilities: [Become a Liberty Utilities Approved Supplier](#)
- New Hampshire Electric Cooperative: [Supplier Information](#)

### Options for Enlisting Load-Serving Entity (LSE) Services

If Stratham chooses to contract with CPCNH, as an all-requirements joint powers agency, for the provision of LSE services, all requirements energy supply and all other energy services required to implement and operate Stratham Community Power, the responsibilities would be as follows.

In 2022, on behalf of the Town and CPCNH's other Member communities, each of which are in various stages of authorizing, launching, and operating Community Power Aggregations, CPCNH conducted a competitive solicitation process to solicit and contract for Comprehensive Services and Credit Support.<sup>3</sup>

As a result of the competitive solicitation process CPCNH selected and has contracted with Calpine Energy Solutions for Retail Data Management, Billing Services, other retail customer solutions, and Load Serving Entity (LSE) services. CPCNH selected and has contracted with Ascend Analytics for Portfolio Risk Management Services, credit support, and certain other services.

If Stratham chooses to contract with CPCNH as an all-requirements joint powers agency, CPCNH will be responsible for providing — either through a contracted service provider, or through itself as a registered LSE with ISO New England — LSE services inclusive of providing all requirements energy supply and all other energy services required to implement and operate Stratham Community Power.

In the event that the Town does not contract with CPCNH to provide LSE and other services to Stratham Community Power, then the Town may contract to implement LSE services independently, either with a third-party LSE acting as the Town's agent or with a Competitive

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<sup>3</sup> CPCNH's Request for Proposals for Comprehensive Services and Credit Support, and additional supporting reference documentation, including the draft Business Plan for CPCNH, are posted online here: <https://www.cpcnh.org/solicitations>.

Electric Power Supplier (CEPS) that contracts to provide LSE services for customers taking service from Stratham Community Power.

The Town, with the support of the Stratham Energy Commission, will ensure that contracts entered into provide for the implementation of LSE services and full requirement energy supply for customers participating in Stratham Community Power.

## Attachment 4: Customer Data Protection Plan

Stratham Community Power will protect and maintain the confidentiality of Individual Customer Data in compliance with its obligations as a Service Provider under RSA Chapter 363 ( [RSA 363:38](#) and [RSA 363:37](#) (*“privacy policies for individual customer data; duties and responsibilities of service providers and definitions”*) and other applicable statutes and Public Utilities Commission rules.

Individual Customer Data (ICD) includes information that is collected over the course of providing energy services to customers participating in Stratham Community Power and that, singly or in combination, can be used to identify specific customers, including: individual customer names, service addresses, billing addresses, telephone numbers, account numbers, electricity consumption data, and payment, financial, banking, and credit information.

As described herein, the Town of Stratham is responsible for ensuring that reasonable security procedures and practices are implemented and maintained to protect the confidentiality of Individual Customer Data from unauthorized access, destruction, modification, disclosure, or use.

If the Town chooses to participate fully in the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH) for the purposes of implementing and operating Stratham Community Power, the responsibilities would be as follows.

### **Responsibilities of the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH)**

CPCNH is a Joint Powers Agency authorized under RSA 53-A (*“Agreements Between Governments: Joint Exercise of Powers”*) and RSA 53-E:3 (*“Municipality and County Authorities”*). CPCNH’s [Joint Powers Agreement](#) expressly authorizes the agency to: <sup>4</sup>

- *“Comply with orders, tariffs, and agreements for the establishment and implementation of community power aggregations and other energy related programs”;*
- *“Make and enter into contracts” and “[m]ake and enter into service agreements relating to the provision of services necessary to plan, implement, operate, and administer CPCNH’s affairs”;* and
- *“[D]o all acts permitted... as well as any act necessary, consistent with New Hampshire law to fulfill the purposes”* set forth under the agreement, which include assisting *“member municipalities and counties in complying with the provisions of NH RSA 53-E in developing and implementing ... Community Power Aggregations”*.

CPCNH has solicited for and contracted with third-parties to provide comprehensive services and credit support to launch Member CPA programs. CPCNH has adopted Energy Portfolio Risk Management, Retail Rates, Financial Reserves, and Data Security and Privacy policies to govern CPA operations.

CPCNH’s adopted Data Security and Privacy Policy is linked to below.<sup>5</sup> The policy defines the

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<sup>4</sup> From Section 2.3, Powers, of the By-Laws of CPCNH, found at pages 21-22 of the JPA, available here: [https://www.cpcnh.org/files/ugd/202f2e\\_601bfada901c4a89a1c2812a0638090a.pdf](https://www.cpcnh.org/files/ugd/202f2e_601bfada901c4a89a1c2812a0638090a.pdf), and more specifically §2.3.11, §2.3.6, §2.3.9, and §2.3 introductory paragraph. Similar language is also in the Articles of Agreement.

<sup>5</sup> CPCNH adopted Data Security and Privacy Policy:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oU9KvV20zAU85AYKQohifyGudG9bNX\\_V/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oU9KvV20zAU85AYKQohifyGudG9bNX_V/view?usp=sharing)

specific goals, requirements, and controls necessary to safeguard the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of confidential information.

CPCNH's Board has also adopted a Cost Sharing Agreement and Member Services Contract, which Members will execute prior to taking CPA service from CPCNH.

### ***CPCNH Request for Proposals for Comprehensive Services and Credit Support***

In April, 2022, CPCNH issued a Request for Proposals for Comprehensive Services and Credit Support and subsequently contracted with qualified third-parties to provide comprehensive services and credit support to enable CPCNH to develop, finance, launch, and operate CPAs.

In November, 2022, CPCNH selected Calpine Energy Solutions, LLC to provide Retail Customer Services, inclusive of services required to ensure the confidentiality of ICD and executed a Master Professional Services Agreement with Calpine Energy Solutions, LLC. Services are inclusive of Member CPA start-up and customer enrollment support services, utility and Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) services, customer information system, customer call center and engagement support services, billing administration, and other services.

For additional information regarding the use of customer data, and expected operational needs of CPCNH, refer to (1) the RFP at pp. 20-23<sup>6</sup> and to (2) the RFP Addendum #2 (issued May 24, 2022), at pp. 11 in response to Questions 15.<sup>7</sup> The latter is excerpted below, and provides a concise summary of CPCNH's requirements to ensure the confidentiality of ICD:

#### ***Regarding Customer Privacy Compliance:***

*[RSA 53-E:4](#), VI, requires CPAs to maintain the confidentiality of individual customer information in compliance with their obligations as service providers under [RSA 363:37](#) (Definitions) and [RSA 363:38](#) ("Privacy Policies for Individual Customer Data; Duties and Responsibilities of Service Providers"). [RSA 53-E:7](#), X also requires the Public Utilities Commission to adopt Administrative Rules for CPAs governing "access to customer data" and other matters.*

Calpine Energy Solutions, LLC has demonstrate physical and cybersecurity readiness sufficient to ensure customer data is held in strict confidence — e.g., through audits in accordance with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants Statements on Standards for Attestation Engagements No. 16 (SSAE 16) Service Organizational Controls (SOC) Reports, periodic network vulnerability assessments, etc. — and is contractually required to maintain the confidentiality of individual customer data pursuant to [RSA 363:38, V\(b\)](#) and applicable Public Utilities Commission rules.

Refer to the PUC's [Adopted CPA Administrative rules \(Chapter Puc 2200\)](#), specifically the definitions in Puc 2202.07 ("Confidential customer information") and Puc 2202.02 ("Anonymized"), and Puc 2205.02 ("Application of Puc 2000 to CEPS When Providing Electricity Supply to CPA Customers").

As CPCNH's retail customer services provider, Calpine Energy Solutions, LLC will comply with relevant portions of the PUC's current Administrative Rules for Competitive Electric Power Suppliers and Aggregators (Chapter Puc 2000). Refer to [Chapter Puc 2000](#), Puc 2002.09 (definition of "Confidential Customer Information") and Puc 2004.19 ("Protection of Confidential

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<sup>6</sup> [https://www.cpcnh.org/files/ugd/202f2e\\_e781638c123d4cf3977358f845081313.pdf](https://www.cpcnh.org/files/ugd/202f2e_e781638c123d4cf3977358f845081313.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> Pages 11-12 at [https://www.cpcnh.org/files/ugd/202f2e\\_8ceed8824453482c902a8a0fa1ab826c.pdf](https://www.cpcnh.org/files/ugd/202f2e_8ceed8824453482c902a8a0fa1ab826c.pdf).



Customer Information”), which is proposed to apply to CEPS providing electricity supply service to CPA customers pursuant to Puc 2205.02 under the PUC's CPA Administrative Rules.

The Request for Proposals and evaluation process was overseen by CPCNH’s Risk Management Committee, composed of CPCNH Member municipality representatives, with additional support from (1) independent experts with experience operating Community Power Aggregation Joint Powers Agencies, and (2) CPCNH’s General Counsel, DWGP, P.C., a nationally recognized law firm with substantial expertise in the Community Power and broader public power industry.

CPCNH’s Risk Management Committee evaluated, ranked, and selected Calpine Energy Solutions, LLC as a vendor with a proven track record of successful qualification for EDI transactions and protection of confidential customer information, including what is characterized as ICD under RSA 363, and other relevant factors.

- Refer to CPCNH’s RFP at p.2 for a summary of the substantial domain expertise participating on the Risk Management Committee and proposal evaluation process.
- For example, the committee includes a Member Director who previously worked for Eversource for 26 years, where he was responsible for deploying and/or operating Eversource’s Customer Information System and day to day interface with competitive electric suppliers and was most recently the Director of Eversource’s Customer Center Operations.

#### ***CPCNH Requirements to Access and Use of Individual Customer Data***

In CPCNH’s capacity as a service provider to the Town, the agency and third parties contracted through CPCNH to provide services to Stratham Community Power will need to access and use ICD for operational needs and for the research, development, and implementation of new rate structures and tariffs, demand response, customer assistance, energy management, or energy efficiency programs on behalf of Stratham Community Power.

Third parties under contract to CPCNH that may require access to ICD on behalf of Stratham Community Power may include CEPS (Competitive Electric Power Suppliers) functioning as Load Serving Entities (LSEs) for the supply of all requirements energy, or other third-party vendors providing Load Serving Entity (LSE) services on behalf of CPCNH, as well as portfolio management, Electronic Data Interchange (EDI), Customer Information System (CIS), billing, accounting, and related services, and other contractors and academic institutions under contract to support the research and development of potential new energy services to offer to customers participating in Stratham Community Power.

Specific types of ICD that Stratham Community Power, CPCNH, and third parties under contract are expected to receive and possess include:

- Name, address, account number, and other information about electric customers within the Town for purposes of sending required notification of Stratham Community Power Commencement of Service and enrollment of customer in Stratham Community Power, consistent with Puc 2204.04, .05, and .06, as adopted by the PUC and the requirements of [RSA 53-E:7](#), III, V, and VI.
- Individual customer information used for operation of Stratham Community Power, such as that in Puc 2205.13, most of which may be accessed through the EDU EDI.
- Other confidential customer information that may be received or collected directly by

Stratham Community Power or CPCNH, or through sources other than the EDU due to customer participation in particular related programs or services, billing operations, other customer services, or that may be volunteered by customers, will likewise only be used for statutorily authorized purposes as ICD.

Ongoing collection and use of individual customer data of the types described in Puc 2205.13 will be used for both:

1. **General operational needs** for retail power supply and related energy services operational needs, such as load and supply forecasting, portfolio management, billing and audit processes, and for research and development of potential new energy services to offer to customer participants; and
2. **Programmatic and customer-specific services and offerings**, such as responding to customer account queries, opt-in rates or demand side management for customers with flexible demand, distributed generation or storage, and interval meters; and other energy services that may be offered including programs for LMI participants that are qualified in the Electric Assistance Program (EAP).

In compliance with [RSA 363:38](#) and [RSA 363.37](#), CPCNH and third parties contracted through CPCNH that require access to ICD to provide services to Stratham Community Power will be contractually required to:

- Implement and maintain reasonable security procedures and practices appropriate to the nature of the ICD.
- Protect ICD from unauthorized access, use, destruction, modification, or disclosure.
- Use ICD solely for primary purposes, such as: complying with the provisions of RSA 53-E:7, II; providing or billing for electrical service; meeting system, grid, or operational needs; researching, developing, and implementing new rate structures and tariffs, demand response, customer assistance, energy management, or energy efficiency programs; and for research and development of potential new energy services to offer to customer participants.
- Collect, store, use, and disclose only as much ICD as is necessary to accomplish the aforementioned primary purposes.
- Not use ICD for a secondary commercial purpose unrelated to the aforementioned primary purposes of the contract without the express consent of the customer.
- Return or permanently delete all ICD after contract termination and deliver a certificate, signed by an authorized representative, stating that all ICD has been returned or permanently deleted and that all materials based on ICD has been destroyed, as appropriate (i.e., except for copies necessary for tax, billing, or other financial purposes).

Additionally, if CPCNH contracts with one or more Competitive Suppliers to provide Load Serving Entity services to participating customers, or brokers to support operations in a capacity that would require access to ICD, then the Competitive Suppliers and/or brokers would additionally be required to comply with the requirements of Puc 2004.19 (*Protection of Confidential Customer Information*), which are excerpted below in the section “Statutory and Rule Requirements” for reference.

## **Responsibilities of the Town of Stratham**

If the Town chooses to participate fully in the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH) for the purposes of implementing and operating Stratham Community Power, the responsibilities would be as follows.

The Select Board with input as needed from the Stratham Energy Commission shall review that CPCNH has adequate policies, procedures and measures in place to protect confidential information and that contractual requirements consistent with the Town's obligations to protect ICD as required under [RSA 363.37](#), [RSA 363:38](#) and [RSA 53-E:4](#), VI, and consistent with PUC rules, including Puc 2004.19 and its non-disclosure restrictions, are incorporated into any contracts with CPCNH, or any other third parties that are authorized to access ICD on behalf of the Town before executing any such contracts.

The Town expects contracts and policies to provide for:

- Third-party security assessment requirements regarding: Information Security Management; Personnel Security; Systems Development and Maintenance; Application Security; System Security; Network Security; Data Security and Integrity; Access Control; and Vulnerability Management.
- Third-party security requirements including: (1) User Account and Access Controls to ensure that only authorized individuals have access to ICD for legitimate primary purposes under RSA 368:38, which may include the need for non-disclosure agreements; (2) Handling of Sensitive Data Protocols to protect confidential customer information from unauthorized access, use, destruction, modification, or disclosure; (3) Breach Reporting, including obligations to report a security breach as defined in [RSA 359-C:19](#), V and required by [RSA 359-C:20](#) and any other applicable laws, rules, or utility requirements for data breach reporting; (4) Plan for deletion and destruction ICD when it is no longer necessary to accomplish primary purposes pursuant to RSA 368:38; and (5) Prohibitions on use of ICD for a secondary commercial purpose not related to the primary purpose of vendor's contract without the express consent of the customer.
- Third-party documentation and reporting requirements regarding, as applicable: Audit Reports (e.g. SSAE 16/SOC Report); Documentation describing Control practices used to review sub-vendors; Maintenance of an Information Security Program; Training Program for Employees on Cyber Awareness; Background checks performed for all employees with access to ICD; Immediate Data Breach reporting to appropriate parties; and any material changes in Data Security practices since prior review and approval.

Lastly, in the event that the Town does not contract with CPCNH to provide energy services to Stratham Community Power, then the Town will develop and adopt policies and contracts that ensure compliance with the Town's obligations as a Service Provider to protect and maintain the confidentiality of ICD under [RSA 363:38](#), [RSA 363.37](#) and other applicable statutes and Public Utilities Commission rules prior to directly collecting, storing, using, or disclosing any ICD or contracting with other Competitive Suppliers, brokers and/or other third-party vendors that require access to ICD.

## **Additional References: Statutory and Regulatory Requirements**

The sections below are provided for additional reference, and summarize the different requirements that apply to (1) Community Power Aggregators and Service Providers, (2) brokers and Competitive Electric Power Suppliers (CEPS) that provide Load Serving Entity services under contract to Community Power Aggregators, and (3) access to ICT through the Multi-Use Energy Data Platform authorized under RSA 378:50-54 (if and when it becomes operational).

### ***Statutory Requirements for Community Power Aggregators & Service Providers***

Statutory requirements regarding the use of Individual Customer Data for Community Power Aggregators are summarized below:

- [RSA 363:37](#), I defines Individual Customer Data (ICD) as *“information that is collected as part of providing electric, natural gas, water, or related services to a customer that can identify, singly or in combination, that specific customer, including the name, address, account number, quantity, characteristics, or time of consumption by the customer.”*
- [RSA 363:38](#), IV requires Service Providers to *“use reasonable security procedures and practices to protect individual customer data [ICD] from unauthorized access, use, destruction, modification, or disclosure.”*
- [RSA 53-E:4](#), VI provides that Community Power Aggregations (CPAs) *“shall be subject to RSA 363:38 as service providers and individual customer data shall be treated as confidential private information and shall not be subject to public disclosure under RSA 91-A”*.
  - The definition of Service Provider under [RSA 363:37](#), II includes *“an aggregator, as defined by RSA 53-E:2, II...and any other service provider that receives individual customer data [ICD]...”*
  - [RSA 53-E:2](#), II defines an *“aggregator”* in this context as *“any municipality or county that engages in aggregation of electric customers within its boundaries”*.
  - RSA 53-E:2, VI further defines *“municipality”* in this context as *“any city, town, unincorporated place, or village district within the state.”*
- [RSA 363:38](#), II requires Service Providers to: *“(a) Collect, store, use, and disclose only as much individual customer data [ICD] as is necessary to accomplish primary purposes, and (b) Use individual customer data solely for primary purposes.”*
- [RSA 363:37](#), III defines “[p]rimary purpose” as *“the main reason for the collection, storage, use, or disclosure of individual customer data [ICD] which is limited to: (a) Providing or billing for electrical or gas service. (b) Meeting system, grid, or operational needs. (c) Researching, developing, and implementing new rate structures and tariffs, demand response, customer assistance, energy management, or energy efficiency programs.”*
- [RSA 53-E:4](#), VI further authorizes approved Community Power Aggregations to *“use individual customer data to comply with the provisions of RSA 53-E:7, II and for research and development of potential new energy services to offer to customer participants.”*
- [RSA 363:38](#), V(b) further makes clear that a Service Provider may disclose ICD *“to a third party for system, grid, or operational needs, or the research, development, and*

*implementation of new rate structures and tariffs, demand response, customer assistance, energy management, or energy efficiency programs” — provided that the Service Provider “has required by contract that the third party implement and maintain reasonable security procedures and practices appropriate to the nature of the information, to protect the personal information from unauthorized access, use, destruction, modification, or disclosure, and to prohibit the use of the data for a secondary commercial purpose not related to the primary purpose of the contract without the express consent of the customer.”*

- [RSA 363:38](#), V(c) provides that “[n]othing in this section shall preclude a service provider from disclosing electric, natural gas, or water consumption data required under state or federal law, or which is identified as information subject to warrant or subpoena or by an order of the commission.”
- [RSA 363:38](#), V(a) makes clear that ICD may be aggregated and used for “analysis, reporting, or program management after information that identifies an individual customer has been removed.”

### ***Additional Requirements Specific to Brokers & Competitive Suppliers***

Pursuant to Puc 2205.02 under the PUC's CPA Administrative Rules, brokers and Competitive Suppliers that are hired by municipalities to manage and operate Community Power Aggregations and provide Load Serving Entity services to participating customers must comply with the requirements of Puc 2004.19 (*Protection of Confidential Customer Information*), which is excerpted below for reference along with Puc 2002.09 (*Confidential Customer Information*).

Note that the use of the term “aggregator” throughout Puc 2004.19 below refers to brokers and does not refer to or otherwise apply to Community Power Aggregators.

As context, these requirements are part of the Commission’s [Chapter Puc 2000 rules](#) (*Competitive Electric Power Supplier and Aggregator Rules*), which apply to Competitive Suppliers and brokers— referred to as “CEPS” and “aggregators” below, respectively — and are expressly not applicable to “municipalities or counties providing electricity or aggregating within the boundaries of participating municipalities under RSA 53-E” (Community Power Aggregators) per Puc 2001.02 (*application of rules*).

***Puc 2002.09 “Confidential customer information” means information that is collected as part of providing electric services to a customer that can identify, singly or in combination, that specific customer, and includes the customer name, address, and account number and the quantity, characteristics, or time of consumption by the customer, and also includes specific customer payment, financial, banking, and credit information.***

...

### ***Puc 2004.19 Protection of Confidential Customer Information.***

*(a) No CEPS or aggregator shall, except as permitted under (c) below or as otherwise required by law, release confidential customer information without express written authorization from the customer.*

*(b) A CEPS or aggregator shall implement and maintain reasonable security procedures and practices appropriate to the nature of the information, to protect confidential*

*customer information from unauthorized access, use, destruction, modification, or disclosure, and to prohibit the use of the confidential customer information for a secondary commercial purpose not related to the primary purpose of the service provided to the customer, without the express written consent of the customer.*

*(c) A CEPS or aggregator may disclose to a third party subject to non-disclosure restrictions confidential customer information as necessary for any one or more of the following purposes:*

- (1) Billing for electric service;*
- (2) Meeting electric system, electric grid, or other operational needs;*
- (3) Implementing any one or more of the following programs:*
  - a. Demand response;*
  - b. Customer assistance;*
  - c. Energy management; and*
  - d. Energy efficiency.*

*(d) For purposes of this section, the term “non-disclosure restrictions” means that the CEPS or aggregator has required by contract that the third party implement and maintain reasonable security procedures and practices appropriate to the nature of the information, to protect the confidential customer information from unauthorized access, use, destruction, modification, or disclosure, and to prohibit the use of the confidential customer information for a secondary commercial purpose not related to the primary purpose of the contract without the express consent of the customer.*

*(e) A customer granting authorization to release confidential customer information for purposes described in the terms and conditions of service shall satisfy the requirement in (a) above.*

*(f) A CEPS or aggregator granted agency authority shall be deemed authorized to obtain customer usage information when it has received customer authorization as described in Puc 2004.08 or Puc 2004.09.*

*(g) In the event of a dispute about the release of confidential customer information, including whether the information is or should be confidential, a CEPS, aggregator, or customer may file a complaint with the commission for resolution.*

## Attachment 5: Abbreviations

<b><u>Acronym</u></b>	<b><u>Meaning</u></b>
AC	Alternating Current (electric current that reverses direction many times a second at regular intervals; the N. American standard for power supply is 60 Hertz)
ACP	Alternative Compliance Payment (under the NH Renewable Portfolio Standard)
CEPS	Competitive Electric Power Suppliers
CHP	Combined Heat and Power
CIS	Customer Information System
CPA	Community Power Aggregation
CPCNH	Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire
CPC	Community Power Committee
CPP	Community Power Plan
EDI	Electronic Data Interchange
EDU	Electric Distribution Utility
ICD	Individual Customer Data
ISO-NE	Independent System Operator New England (the wholesale electricity market operator)
KW	Kilowatt (a measure of electrical capacity, equivalent to 1,000 watts of power)
kWh	Kilowatt-hour (a measure of electrical energy, equivalent to using or producing 1,000 watts for 1 hour, and typically used to refer to customer generation or onsite usage)
LSE	Load Serving Entity (entity registered with ISO-NE as a market participant, responsible for providing electric energy and related services to meet the demand of retail customers)
MW	Megawatt (a measure of electrical capacity, equivalent to 1,000,000 watts of power)
MWh	Megawatt-hour (a measure of electrical energy, equivalent to using or producing 1,000,000 watts for 1 hour, and typically used in reference to power plants or large aggregations of customers)
NEM	Net Energy Metering (tariffs that provide compensation for customer-generators)
NEPOOL GIS	New England Power Pool Generation Information System (which issues and tracks RECs)
NHEC	New Hampshire Electric Co-Op (a member-owned electric distribution cooperative)

NHPUC	New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (which regulates NH’s investor-owned electric distribution utilities: Eversource, Unitil and Liberty Utilities)
PV	Solar Photovoltaics
REC	Renewable Energy Credit (under the NH Renewable Portfolio Standard)
RFP	Request for Proposals
RPS	New Hampshire’s Renewable Portfolio Standard (authorized under RSA 362-F)
RSA	Revised Statutes Annotated (refers to the codified state law of New Hampshire)
SEC	Stratham Energy Commission
SEAC	Stratham Energy Aggregation Committee



ATTACHMENT #6: PUBLIC HEARING #1 MAY 25, 2023 LEGAL NOTICE AND SUMMARY

**PUBLIC HEARING  
NOTICE**

Stratham Municipal Center  
10 Bunker Hill Avenue  
Stratham, NH 03885

Meeting to be held in  
Room A  
Thursday, May 25, 2023  
7:00 pm

As outlined in RSA 53E, the Stratham Energy Aggregation Committee will hold this public hearing as part of its effort to develop an Energy Aggregation Plan (EAP). At this hearing, the public will learn about electric aggregation and the NH community power program. More information can be found at <https://www.strathamnh.gov/energy-aggregation-committee> or call (603) 772-7391 ext 187.

## PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE STRATHAM ELECTRIC AGGREGATION PLAN

Meeting held at the Stratham Municipal Center May 25, 2023

Two Public Hearings are planned for resident questions and input as Stratham prepares an Electric Aggregation Plan for Stratham Community Power. The first was held on May 25, 2023 and the second will be held on June 22, 2023.

Approximately 35 residents attended the Public Hearing which started at 7 PM.

Charlie Case, chair of the Stratham Energy Aggregation Committee provided an introduction to Community Power and explained how it is a transformative step forward for municipalities. The Select Board appointed an Energy Aggregation Committee to develop a Stratham Electric Aggregation Plan in accordance with RSA53-E to be presented at a Town Meeting for approval by a vote of those present. The Committee members present were introduced: Paul Deschaine, Joe Anderson, Matt O'Keefe, Mike Welty and Charlie Case. Joe VanGombos was unable to attend.

Community Power enables cities, towns and counties to lower electric rates, enable local control of energy choices, provide greater choice for residents and provide options with higher percentages of renewable energy at a slightly higher cost. 33 municipalities in New Hampshire have started Community Power programs with 7 of those in neighboring cities and towns. Stratham has had good success for Town facilities with Electric Aggregation and Solar Power.

It was explained that residents are not required to use Stratham Community Power and that the program is funded entirely from electric rates. Our local utility, Unital, will continue to deliver electricity, maintain the lines and equipment and handle billing.

The Committee has reviewed a variety of Community Power options including third party brokers, Good Energy/Standard Power, Freedom Energy and the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH). CPCNH offers advantages to Stratham over other options with non-profit member control and long term innovative solutions. Stratham has joined CPCNH as a member. Committee member Paul Deschaine is the Stratham Member Representative to CPCNH.

Henry Herndon, representing CPCNH was introduced. He provided a more in depth explanation of Community Power and how CPCNH operates.

Paul Deschaine led the Q & A session and began introducing a list of objectives for Community Power and asked for residents to think about which objectives are the most important to them.

A number of questions related to resident solar power – both installed and potential new installations, and some of those were about existing Town codes that affect ground mount solar. A Condominium in Stratham invested in solar to provide power for shared power needs and one owner wanted to know how Community Power would work for them. This brought up a larger

question – how are resident solar installations being handled by CPCNH now? Henry Herndon explained that another New Hampshire Utility (Eversource) has had difficulty identifying how much power is fed back into the grid by resident solar installations. Eversource and CPCNH are working on a solution, but for now residents with solar installations are temporarily excluded. Another resident asked if the Town can identify preferred solar installers and it was explained that the Town can't do that and there are other ways to find out preferred companies.

A resident wanted to make sure Unitil won't be hurt by Community Power and it was explained that Unitil will continue to do just what it does now. The default supply rate offered by Unitil is simply a pass through and that Unitil gets no revenue from it.

Public Hearing ended at approximately 8:45 PM.

ATTACHMENT #7: PUBLIC HEARING #2 JUNE 22, 2023 LEGAL NOTICE AND SUMMARY

**PUBLIC HEARING  
NOTICE**

Stratham Fire Station  
4 Winnicutt Road  
Stratham, NH 03885  
Meeting to be held in  
the Morgera Room  
Thursday, June 22, 2023  
6:30 pm

As outlined in RSA 53E, the Stratham Energy Aggregation Committee will hold this public hearing as part of its effort to develop an Energy Aggregation Plan (EAP). At this hearing, the public will learn more about electric aggregation, the NH community power program and provide feedback on a draft of the Stratham Community Power plan, which can be viewed at <https://www.strathamnh.gov/energy-aggregation-committee> or call (603) 772-7391 ext. 187.

# **PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE STRATHAM ELECTRIC AGGREGATION PLAN**

## **Meeting held at the Fire Station Meeting Room**

### **June 22, 2023**

Two Public Hearings were held to explain Community Power and hear comments and questions as Stratham prepares an Electric Aggregation Plan for Stratham Community Power. The first was held on May 25, 2023 and the second was held on June 22, 2023.

Approximately 15 residents attended the second Public Hearing adding to the 35 who attended the first Public Hearing for a total of about 50 residents.

Public Hearing began at 6:30 PM

#### **Presentations – Introduction to Community Power**

Charlie Case, chair of the Stratham Energy Aggregation Committee provided an introduction to Community Power and explained how it is a transformative step forward for municipalities. The Select Board appointed an Energy Aggregation Committee to develop a Stratham Electric Aggregation Plan in accordance with RSA53-E to be presented at a Town Meeting for approval by a vote of those present. The Committee members present were introduced: Paul Deschaine, Joe Anderson, Matt O’Keefe, Mike Welty, Charlie Case and Joe VanGombos. Matt O’Keefe was unable to attend.

Community Power enables cities, towns and counties to lower electric rates, enable local control of energy choices, provide greater choice for residents and provide options with higher percentages of renewable energy at a slightly higher cost. 33 municipalities in New Hampshire have started Community Power programs with 7 of those in neighboring cities and towns. Stratham has had good success for Town facilities with Electric Aggregation and Solar Power.

It was explained that residents are not required to use Stratham Community Power and that the program is funded entirely from electric rates. Our local utility, Unitil, will continue to deliver electricity, maintain the lines and equipment and handle billing.

The Committee has reviewed a variety of Community Power options including third party brokers, Good Energy/Standard Power, Freedom Energy and the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH). CPCNH offers advantages to Stratham over other options with non profit member control and long term innovative solutions.

Stratham has joined CPCNH as a member. Committee member Paul Deschaine is the Stratham Member Representative to CPCNH.

#### **Introduction to the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire**

Henry Herndon, representing CPCNH provided a more in depth explanation of Community Power and how CPCNH operates. He explained that the Utilities can’t yet provide Data on resident net metering that includes the amount of power fed back into the grid. The Utilities and CPCNH are addressing this issue as a top priority since it prevents inclusion of residents with solar installations from Community Power for now.

#### **Rye NH Experience in Setting Up Community Power Through CPCNH**

Lisa Sweet from the Rye Energy Committee attended to share Rye’s experience setting up Community Power.

She explained that Rye was an early CPCNH adopter and became a member Town in Sept 2021. The Rye Community Power Committee wrote their Electric Aggregation Plan from Sept 2021 to Dec 2021 and the Plan was adopted by Town meeting in March 2022 following extensive communication with residents. Acceptance of their Plan by the PUC was delayed until the PUC completed their Community Power rules – adopted in September 2022. Rye launched Community Power in early 2023 as one of 12 Cities and Towns which contracted for Community Power supply through CPCNH. Rye residents indicated that their most important priorities were cost, level of renewables choice and rate stability.

### **Comments and Questions**

Paul Deschaine led the Q & A session and discussed a list of objectives for Stratha Community Power. He asked for residents to think about which objectives are the most important to them. There is a link on the Town Energy Aggregation Committee web page for residents to provide comments and questions.

Stratham resident feedback at the Public Hearings and the web page link has been largely positive, with priorities listed as lower rates, regional collaboration and financial reserves for price stability. The question of financial reporting of reserves was raised – whether Stratham needs to include Community Power reserves in its reporting and auditing, or would the reporting and auditing function already handled by CPCNH be sufficient. It was noted that Community Power has a structural advantage over the Utilities which must obtain supply contracts every six months, whereas CPCNH can manage a portfolio of contracts obtained at more advantageous times. A resident pointed out that this clear advantage for Community Power might be eliminated if the PUC would allow the Utilities to offer a lower default rate using the same contract portfolio strategy. There was a discussion about what caused the price spike – that the price of natural gas spiked raising the cost of half of the 54 generators in the ISO New England grid to increase their prices. It was pointed out that Unitil shares the goal of lowering prices. Another differentiator that makes the generators less cost effective than Community Power is that the generators have little profit incentive to offer innovative solutions. CPCNH will address long term solutions to keep prices lower by offering collaborative projects such as large scale solar. Other options could include off-peak metering. Risk of a Community Power supplier failing to provide per contract was discussed. CPCNH does constant monitoring of creditworthiness of suppliers to mitigate that possibility.

A resident asked the Committee why the Town needs to do anything because rates are coming down anyway and the Town must show the benefit for residents. Response was that lower rates now does not predict price stability and Community Power can do that through group purchasing and financial reserves.

Public Hearing ended at approximately 8:10 PM