

CITY OF LOWELL
PETITION

TO THE
CITY COUNCIL

*Mary Hottel
Green Community Choice
Power Program
Request permission to
add to City Council
regarding Community
Choice Power Program*

In City Council

April 9, 2019

Read and

Clerk

GREEN COMMUNITY CHOICE POWER PROGRAM

From:

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To:

Hon. Mr. William Samaras & the City Council

Speakers:

Harry Kortikere- Lowell Resident
Jay Mason- Lowell Resident & Chair of the Sustainability Council

Dear Mr. Mayor:

I would like to address the City Council at its regular weekly meeting on Tue, April 9th as it pertains to the topic of Green Community Choice Power Program (CCCP). Lowell currently has community choice power program with *Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative ("CMEEC")*, a wholesale electricity supplier licensed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The contract is coming up for renewal in November' 2019. The new state law requires utilities must increase the share of electricity they get from renewable sources by 2% per year from 2020 to 2029, up from 1% per year under current law. Then, in 2030, the new plan reverts back to a 1% annual increase. This would put the state at 35% renewable energy by 2030 instead of 25% by 2030 under current law. This would mean that Lowell also needs to have a plan in place to be compliant to the 35% target at the minimum.

With the contract coming up for renewal in Nov' 2019, it therefore presents a unique opportunity for the city to consider who we should partner with for Community Choice Power Program to not only meet the goal in the new state law, but to go a step further and take a leadership position in the Commonwealth by achieving a higher than the 35% target set in the law. Ordinarily such lofty green target goals are met with concern and skepticism due to cost considerations and whether financially it poses an undue burden to a city to be able to achieve such goals. However, I was recently made aware of data presented by Massachusetts Climate Action Network, a 501(c)3 non-profit, that is dedicated to educating the cities and towns in the commonwealth towards more sustainable solutions.

The data presented by MCAN (and am enclosing a copy for your reference) speaks for itself. There are several cities and towns in the Commonwealth that have been able to implement CCPP with suppliers such as Peregrine or Good Energy resulting in lower rate/Kwh than we currently have with National grid at 13.7c/Kwh. Newton for instance was able to achieve an extra 46% above their current green target with a rate of 11.34c/Kwh and Somerville was able

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to achieve an extra 5% above their current green target with a rate of 10.53c/Kwh. If Lowell were to enter into contract negotiations, while we cannot guarantee we will end up at exactly these rates, the data seems to suggest that the odds are in our favor. If we do a quick calculation on what this means for the residents of Lowell, with ~40K households in the city and with an average electricity bill costing at \$80/month, this would roughly represent \$200/year savings per household and in aggregate about \$800K in savings for the residents of Lowell per year. If we were to extrapolate this to the 10 year period from 2020-2030, we are taking about ~\$8M in savings for Lowellians while achieving a higher green target rate, perhaps even well over 50%. In addition the city would also likely save on the utility bill it pays today. Since I don't have that data, am not able to calculate what those numbers would be.

I am therefore requesting that the city council through Councilor Leahy's sub-committee quickly move to take this issue up and authorize the City Manager, Madam Eileen Donoghue and the CFO Mr. Conor Baldwin to conduct a feasibility study by entering into preliminary discussions with Peregrine or Good Energy or other similar providers and validating whether indeed these higher targets can be achieved while also achieving cost savings for the residents of this city. Due to the limited time we have to finalize the analysis and bring back to the City Council for final approval before the November deadline, I would urge the City Council to authorize this at the earliest.

Sincerely

Harry Kortikere