



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Townsend Community Electricity Launching December 2024 with Rate of 13.528¢/kWh

Townsend, MA - (October, 2024) - The Town of Townsend is pleased to announce that it will launch its electricity supply program, Townsend Community Electricity, in December 2024. The program is a municipal aggregation, which is already offered by nearly 170 cities and towns in the State, including nearby Fitchburg, Ashby, Lunenburg, and Pepperell.

Townsend Community Electricity will offer three new electricity supply options to all Townsend residents and businesses. The Town's primary offering, Townsend Standard, will cost less than the current Unitil Residential Basic Service rate, while also providing an additional 10% renewable energy (though future savings cannot be guaranteed). Townsend residents and businesses may also choose from two other options: Townsend 100, which has 100% renewable energy, and Townsend Basic which just meets the State minimum standards for renewable energy.

Townsend Community Electricity will provide long-term price stability, with prices fixed for 36 months, until December 2027. The program will also support the growth of renewable energy here in New England, because all additional renewable energy will come from "Class I" sources. Those are primarily wind and solar, all located within New England.

"This program will enable Townsend residents and small businesses more control of their electricity bills by using a new electricity generator/supplier contracted through competitive bidding process and selecting from 3 renewable energy options. The 36-month contract will avoid the mid-winter electric bill spikes that everyone experienced last winter." Theresa A. Morse, Townsend Selectman.

The program was initially authorized by Town Meeting in 2023, and was recently approved by the State's Department of Public Utilities in September 2024. The program launches in December 2024.

Townsend residential and business electricity customers using Unitil Basic Service supply are eligible for automatic enrollment in Townsend Standard as of their December meter read. In mid October, all such eligible customers will receive a Notification Letter on behalf of the Town from the chosen electricity supplier for the program, Constellation. The letter will notify them of the upcoming enrollment and provide instructions on how to choose a different program option other than Townsend Standard or how to opt out of the program (i.e., not participate) before the program starts.

Participation in Townsend Community Electricity is voluntary. Anyone that does not want to participate may opt out without penalty, either before the program begins or at any time during the program.

Electricity customers who are currently enrolled with a third-party supplier will not receive the Notification Letter and will not be automatically enrolled. These customers can voluntarily join the program, but are advised to check with their current supplier in case it may charge penalties or early termination fees if they leave that supplier during the term of their contract.

Participation in Townsend Community Electricity will only change the “Supply” portion of your Unitil electricity bill. Unitil will still continue to manage electricity billing, maintain poles and wires and respond to storm outages. Customers using budget billing or receiving low-income rate discounts will continue to receive those discounts without interruption. Similarly, customers receiving net metering or other solar benefits will continue to receive those benefits.

We invite you to join us at a community meeting to learn more about the program:

- **In-Person: Tuesday October 29, at 12:30 PM at the Townsend Senior Center, 16 Dudley Rd**
- **Virtual: Tuesday October 29, or Thursday November 7, both at 7 PM. Find the virtual link at TownsendCommunityElectricity.com**

For more information about the Townsend Community Electricity, go to TownsendCommunityElectricity.com or call Good Energy, the consultants that manage the Townsend Program, at (978) 248-8424.

The table below shows the prices for Townsend Community Electricity, compared to Unitil Basic Service. Townsend Community Electricity prices apply to all Residential, Commercial and Industrial customers:

	Unitil Basic Service (Residential)	Townsend Basic	Townsend Standard (automatic for eligible customers)	Townsend Plus
Residential Price	19.304 ¢/kWh	13.115 ¢/kWh	13.528 ¢/kWh	14.394 ¢/kWh
Voluntary Renewable Energy*	None	None	Adds 10% voluntary renewable energy (MA Class I RECs)	Adds voluntary renewable energy (MA Class I RECs) to total 100%
Duration	August 2024 through January 2025	December 2024 through December 2027	December 2024 through December 2027	December 2024 through December 2027

The program cannot guarantee savings beyond the current term of Basic Service, as stated in the table above, because future Basic Service rates are unknown.

*Voluntary Renewable Energy is in addition to the State’s required renewable energy content for all electricity supplies. The State’s required renewable energy content is 62% in 2024.