

A stronger focus on clean electricity and new prices coming for Chelmsford Choice participants

CHELMSFORD, MA. Chelmsford Choice participants will soon have a new clean electricity choice, three years of price stability, and competitive new prices. The changes are the result of Chelmsford's new, 36-month electricity supply contract with Constellation NewEnergy for the Chelmsford Choice electricity program. The new contract will take effect in November 2020 when the current contract with Public Power ends.

Since the program launched in February 2016, Chelmsford Choice has offered Chelmsford residents and businesses two electricity alternatives to National Grid's Basic Service. The Chelmsford Choice offering, which is the program default, has focused on providing cost-effective pricing. The Chelmsford Choice Plus offering has been the program's single clean electricity option. Participants who opted up to Chelmsford Choice Plus have received electricity that is 100% from renewable sources like the sun and the wind, and those sources have been located primarily from outside New England.

The new contract includes a second clean-electricity option, giving Chelmsford residents and businesses increased flexibility with a total of three electricity alternatives:

The Chelmsford Choice offering will now be renamed Chelmsford Choice Basic and will continue to focus on providing cost-effective pricing and will include the minimum amount of renewable electricity required by state law, as before.

The Chelmsford Choice Plus option will be renamed Chelmsford Choice Greenest. This option will continue providing 100% clean, renewable electricity, but now the electricity will all come from sources located within New England (100% MA Class I RECs).

A new Chelmsford Choice Greener option will sit between those existing alternatives. Chelmsford Choice Greener will provide an additional 40% clean, renewable electricity (an additional 40% MA Class I RECs), in addition to the minimum amount required by state law.

"Chelmsford Choice has already saved our community a total of more than \$6.5 million," said Chelmsford Town Manager Paul Cohen. "With this new contract, we increase the ways the program provides value to the community. As before, Chelmsford Choice Basic will continue with the goal of supplying cost-effective electricity, and the new price will offer savings of more than 2 cents per kilowatt-hour below National Grid's winter 2020 residential Basic Service price. In addition, we are making it easier than ever for participants to reduce reliance on fossil fuels with the addition of the new Chelmsford Choice Greener clean electricity option."

The new program prices will be as follows: Chelmsford Choice Basic: 10.042 cents/kWh. Chelmsford Choice Greener: 11.484 cents/kWh. Chelmsford Choice Greenest: 13.015 cents/kWh. Most participants in the program are enrolled in the Chelmsford Choice Basic offering.

Both the Chelmsford Choice Basic and the Chelmsford Choice Greener prices are lower than National Grid's winter 2020 residential Basic Service price of 12.388 cents/kWh.

However, during the contract with Constellation, National Grid's Basic Service prices may at times be lower than the Chelmsford Choice price. This is because National Grid's fixed Basic Service prices change every 6 months for residential and commercial customers and every 3 months for industrial customers. Chelmsford's program has the potential to provide savings when compared with the average of National Grid's changing prices, but because future National Grid prices are not known, savings cannot be guaranteed.

All active program participants will automatically be enrolled into the new Constellation contract with their November 2020 meter read. No action is required. With December 2020 National Grid electricity bills, participants in Chelmsford Choice will see the new program prices and will see their electricity supplier listed as Constellation NewEnergy - Chelmsford Choice. The new prices are designed to provide long-term price stability and are fixed until November 2023 meter reads. Prices apply to all rate classes, including residential, commercial, and industrial accounts.

Participants will be enrolled in the corresponding program option they have in the current Public Power contract. However, participants may choose a different program option or leave the program before the contract with Constellation takes effect, and at any time in the future, with no penalty or fee. Those who wish to make a change before the new contract takes effect should submit their request no later than October 28, 2020. Changes can be requested on the program website, ChelmsfordChoice.com, or by contacting customer support at 844-483-5004. Anyone who is not currently enrolled in the program and wishes to enroll as a new customer may also do so on the website or by calling customer support.

Tax-exempt account holders will need to submit tax-exemption documentation to Constellation to retain their tax-exempt status in the program. This documentation must be submitted to Constellation even if it was submitted previously to National Grid and Public Power. Information about where to submit tax-exemption documentation is available on ChelmsfordChoice.com.

Chelmsford Choice is a group buying program for electricity from the Town of Chelmsford for Chelmsford residents and businesses. Massachusetts state law allows cities and towns to choose the electricity supplier for their electricity customers rather than having the local electric utility, which is National Grid for Chelmsford, buy their electricity. Chelmsford Choice offers long-term pricing and consumer protections, such as the ability to leave the program at any time with no penalty or fees. Participating in the program changes the price that National Grid uses to calculate the supply services portion of participants' electricity bills. National Grid's delivery charges are not impacted by participation in Chelmsford Choice.

More information is available by visiting the program website at ChelmsfordChoice.com or by calling customer support with Chelmsford's program consultants at 844-483-5004.

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