

2023 Annual Report for the Cambridge Community Electricity Program

For calendar year 2023, the City of Cambridge submitted the following Annual Report to the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU) for the Cambridge Community Electricity Program.

The content of the Annual Report is stipulated by the DPU and is comprised of the following attachments:

- **Attachment III.C: Public Access** - Illustrates how the City of Cambridge provided access to program information during the year.
- **Attachment IV.A: Organizational Structure** - Shows how program administration responsibilities are divided between the City, the City's aggregation consultant, and the program's electricity supplier.
- **Attachment IV.B.1.c: Equitable Treatment of Customer Classes** - Describes any variances in treatment between customer classes.
- **Attachment IV.B.2: Procurement of Supply** - Presents the timeline of any electricity supply procurement undertaken during the year.
- **Attachment IV.B.6.a: Representative Opt-Out Notification** - Provides a representative Opt-Out Notification (automatic enrollment notification) from the calendar year. The Opt-Out Notification is sent by mail to new electricity account holders in Cambridge to notify them of their eligibility for automatic enrollment in the program.
- **Attachment IV.B.6.b: Representative Notice of Product Change** - Provides a representative notice of a product change, if such a notice was issued during the year.
- **Attachment IV.B.7.b.i: Annual Product Information** - For each program option, provides details around price components, renewable energy content, and average number of accounts enrolled. Also provides the electricity supplier name and electricity supply contract price term.
- **Attachment IV.B.7.b.ii: Annual Product Rate Component Information** - Includes the total revenue for each rate component for the year.

City of Cambridge
2023 Municipal Aggregation Annual Report
November 1, 2024

Attachment III.C Public Access

Table III.C - Public Access to Plan/Ongoing Program Information	
Location	Description
Municipal website	Access to the Plan and detailed program information was provided through a link to the program website. Program announcements were posted on the home page.
Program website	The program website (MassPowerChoice.com/Cambridge) provided access to the Plan and other program documents, detailed product information, and contact information for both the program supplier and the consultant, MassPowerChoice, which was responsible for customer support. The site also featured easily accessible options for prospective customers to enroll and for current participants to change their program options or opt out of the program if desired.
Communication vehicles/ Outreach activities	
Announcement to local/ regional media	Program updates, a including price-change notification, were sent over to the City’s media list, which includes more than 70 news outlets and resources in Cambridge and the greater Boston area, for example the <i>Cambridge Day</i> , <i>Boston Globe</i> , WBUR, NPR and WBZ-Radio.
Social media accounts	Program updates, a including price-change notification, were publicized in Facebook posts for the Cambridge Community Development Department and the Cambridge Energy Alliance.
Municipal newsletter	Program updates, including price-change notification, was included in the <i>City Daily Newsletter</i> , in the DPW <i>Zero Waste</i> newsletter, and in the <i>Economic Opportunity and Development</i>

	<i>Department</i> newsletter, which goes to the Cambridge business community.
Municipal Blog	Program updates, including price-change notification, were posted on the Cambridge Energy Alliance blog, <i>Warm Home Cool Planet</i> Blog.
Municipal email list	Program updates, including price-change notifications, were sent to the City email list.
Physical posting in municipal buildings	Program updates, a including price-change notification, were posted on bulletin boards in the Department of Human Service Programs building and in the Cambridge Health Alliance / Cambridge Public Health Department building.
Municipal departments, boards, and committees	Program updates, a including price-change notification, were sent out in the <i>Weekly Digest</i> email, which goes out to all municipal departments.
Community organizations	Program updates, including price-change notifications, were sent to the following community organizations with a request that they share the information with their constituents: the Cambridge Economic Opportunity Council, , the Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House, the Living Well Network, and the Cambridge Nonprofit Coalition.
Public Events	Program information, was presented at a Cambridge Energy Alliance information session at the Senior Center during the Getting Ready for Winter Resource Fair, and at the Nature in the City Festival. In addition, the City held two public information sessions about the program that specifically included information about the new prices in January and February 2024.
Mailings	Throughout the year, new utility Basic Service customers were sent Opt-Out Notices informing them of the program, their upcoming automatic enrollment, and the methods for opting out or selecting an optional product. In January 2023, program information was included in a notice that was sent to low-income customers regarding Community Solar.

	<p>In June 2023, the Cambridge Community Development Department sent two notices with program information: a mailing detailing the program to those not currently participating, and a postcard to customers outlining the benefits of opting up, along with instructions on how to do so.</p> <p>In December 2023, a notice of program price change and automatic enrollment renewal was sent to customers.</p>
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Attachment IV.A Organizational Structure

Table IV.A – Organizational Structure			
Core Functions	Performing Entity		
	Municipality	Consultant	Supplier
Liaisons/Representatives/Agents			
Municipal Representative/Agent before Department		X	
Liaison with DOER		X	
Liaison with Electric Distribution Companies		X	
Plan Elements			
Procurement of Supply		X	
Product Determination	X		
Other Funding/Costs	X		
Customer Enrollment			X
Customer Notifications/Outreach/ Education	X	X	

Ongoing Program Information	X	X	
Program Termination	X		
Annual Reports		X	
Customer Service		X	

Municipal contact for Department correspondence:

Meghan Shaw
617-349-5323
mshaw@cambridgema.gov

Customer Service:

Municipality:

Meghan Shaw
617-349-5323
mshaw@cambridgema.gov

Consultant:

MassPowerChoice
844-379-9934
cambridge@masspowerchoice.com

Supplier:

Direct Energy
866-968-8065

Attachment IV.B.1.c Equitable Treatment of Customer Classes

Table IV.B.1.c Equitable Treatment of Customer Classes					
Plan Element					
Procurement of Supply (§ IV.B.2)	Product Rate Setting/Renewable Energy Content (§ IV.B.3)	Other Funding Sources/Costs (§ IV.B.4)	Customer Enrollment (§ IV.B.5)	Customer Notification (§ IV.B.6)	Ongoing Program Information (§ IV.B.7)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Table IV.B.1.c identifies the Plan elements for which there may be variances in the treatment between customer classes or subclasses. Those variances in treatment are described below.

Medium/Large commercial and industrial customers enrolling in the Program after Program launch may be offered a market-based price rather than the contract price. Such differential treatment is equitable because these customers have more choices in the marketplace and impose greater costs on the Program than other customers when they join after Program launch.

Customers that previously opted out and later wish to re-enroll in the Program may be offered a market-based price. This differential treatment is equitable because these customers previously made a choice not to participate in the Program and as a result their load was no longer planned for by the electricity supplier.

Attachment IV.B.2 Procurement of Supply

Table IV.B.2 - Procurement of Supply	
Procurement Steps	Timeline
Issue RFQs/RFPs	April 17, 2023, and June 8, 2023
Evaluate/Select Bids	June 21, 2023
Negotiate/Execute Contracts	June 21, 2023

Attachment IV.B.6.a Representative Opt-Out Notification



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

COMMUNITY ELECTRICITY AGGREGATION PROGRAM NOTIFICATION LETTER

Español: masspowerchoice.com/cambridge/letter_spanish.pdf
Kreyòl ayisyen: masspowerchoice.com/cambridge/letter_hcreole.pdf
বাংলা: masspowerchoice.com/cambridge/letter_bangla.pdf
አማርኛ: masspowerchoice.com/cambridge/letter_amharic.pdf
masspowerchoice.com/cambridge/letter_arabic.pdf العربية

December 27, 2023

Dear Cambridge Resident or Business,

This letter contains important information about your electric bill.

You currently have Eversource Basic Service. This means Eversource delivers your electricity, and Eversource is also your electricity supplier (they buy electricity for you).

However, the City of Cambridge has an electricity program called the **Cambridge Community Electricity (CCE) Program**. In this program, Eversource delivers your electricity, but the City selects its own electricity supplier. The City has used the program to develop a new solar energy project in Cambridge. By participating, you're helping to add more renewable electricity to the local electricity grid.

If you received this letter and you do nothing, you will be AUTOMATICALLY enrolled in the Cambridge Community Electricity Program.

Your opt-out request must be submitted or postmarked by January 29, 2024, to avoid automatic enrollment in the program.

Participation means: Eversource will remain your electric utility. You will continue to receive your electric bill from them and call them if the power goes out. But you will see Direct Energy listed on the Supply portion of your Eversource bill, and the Cambridge Community Electricity Program price will be used to calculate the Supply charge on your bill.

If you are eligible for a low-income delivery rate or fuel assistance, you will continue to receive those benefits.

Choosing not to participate means: Eversource will continue to be your electricity supplier, and the Supply portion of your bill will remain on Eversource's Basic Service price.

Benefits of participating

Local, renewable electricity - The City uses the funds collected through Cambridge Community Electricity Program participation to add new renewable energy to the grid. The renewable energy from the City's new solar energy project is already producing green electricity that lowers the greenhouse gas emissions impact of CCE customers' electricity supply.

Choice - The program gives you three options: 1) 100% Green Plus, which includes 100% from MA Class I renewable energy projects, 2) Standard Green, which includes 50% from MA Class I renewable energy projects, and 3) Economy Green, which includes the minimum renewable energy required by state law. **You will be automatically enrolled in Standard Green. (Details on back.)**

Potential savings - The program price may be lower than Eversource's Basic Service price. However, Eversource's Basic Service prices change seasonally. **As a result, the program price may not always be below the Eversource price, and savings cannot be guaranteed.**

Cambridge Community Electricity Program

Your new electricity supply price:
14.81 ¢/kWh

Compare to Eversource's
residential Basic Service price:
17.251 ¢/kWh

Eversource business prices on the back ▶

Customer Support:

1-844-379-9934

Don't want to participate?

You don't have to. There is no penalty or fee to opt out of the program, and you may opt out at any time.

If you choose not to participate, you will remain an Eversource Basic Service customer.

To opt out before being enrolled, do one of the following before **January 29, 2024**:

- ▶ Sign & return the enclosed card.
- ▶ Opt out online at MassPowerChoice.com/Cambridge.
- ▶ Call customer support at **1-844-379-9934**.

Your options in the Cambridge Community Electricity Program

The chart below can help you decide whether to remain enrolled in your current option, change to another option, or opt out and return to Eversource's Basic Service. To make a change, visit MassPowerChoice.com/Cambridge or contact customer support with the City's program consultants at 1-844-379-9934.

Cambridge Community Electricity Program options:				You will be enrolled here ▼						If you do not wish to participate:		
	100% Green Plus 100% from MA Class I renewable energy projects.			Standard Green 50% from MA Class I renewable energy projects.			Economy Green Minimum renewable energy required by law.			Eversource's Basic Service If you opt out.		
Price	16.82 ¢/kWh*			14.81 ¢/kWh*			13.82 ¢/kWh*			17.251 ¢/kWh - Residential 17.587 ¢/kWh - Small business 19.098 ¢/kWh - Large business		
Price period	Enrollment - January 2026			Enrollment - January 2026			Enrollment - January 2026			January 1 - July 31, 2024, residential & small business. January 1 - April 30, 2024, large business.		
	2024	2025	2026	2024	2025	2026	2024	2025	2026	2024	2025	2026
Electricity from MA Class I renewable energy projects**												
Added by Cambridge	76%	73%	70%	26%	23%	20%	-	-	-	-	-	-
Required by state law	24%	27%	30%	24%	27%	30%	24%	27%	30%	24%	27%	30%
Total	100%	100%	100%	50%	50%	50%	24%	27%	30%	24%	27%	30%
Electricity from other clean or renewable sources**												
Required by state law	38%	36%	39%	38%	36%	39%	38%	36%	39%	38%	36%	39%
Exit terms	Leave any time. No exit charge.			Leave any time. No exit charge.			Leave any time. No exit charge.			Leave any time. No exit charge. However, large business customers may receive a billing adjustment charge or credit.		

* Prices include a \$0.00075/kWh administrative fee. Prices also include a \$0.002/kWh operational fee to support renewable energy initiatives in Cambridge. Program prices could increase as a result of a change in law that results in a direct, material increase in costs during the term of the electricity supply agreement.

** The Commonwealth of Massachusetts requires that all electricity supply products include a minimum of 62% from clean or renewable energy resources in 2024, 63% in 2025, and 69% in 2026. Direct Energy must purchase electricity from MA Class I renewable energy projects and from other sources such as trash-to-energy or nuclear. The Economy Green option meets the minimum requirement. The Standard Green and 100% Green Plus options exceed it by purchasing more electricity from MA Class I renewable energy projects.

Additional information

If you have received this letter and also you have signed a contract with an electricity supplier, you may have signed your contract after this mailing list was created. To continue receiving electricity from the supplier you chose and prevent any early termination fees from that supplier, you must opt out of the Cambridge Community Electricity Program.

If you have a tax-exempt account, you are responsible for identifying and requesting an exemption from the collection of any tax by providing appropriate tax-exemption documentation to Direct Energy. Visit MassPowerChoice.com/Cambridge to learn more.

If you have solar panels on your roof or you participate in a community solar program, you will continue to receive solar credits and/or solar incentive payments, and participating in the Cambridge Community Electricity Program will not change how they are calculated.

If you have any additional questions, please contact customer support at **1-844-379-9934** or cambridge@masspowerchoice.com, or visit www.MassPowerChoice.com/Cambridge. Our program consultants will be happy to help you. Or you may contact the City of Cambridge directly at 1-617-349-5323.

Yi-An Huang
City Manager

Attachment IV.B.6.b Representative Notification of Product Change



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

A NOTIFICATION FROM THE CITY ABOUT A CHANGE IN YOUR ELECTRICITY SUPPLY PRICE

Español: masspowerchoice.com/cambridge/spanish
Kreyòl ayisyen: masspowerchoice.com/cambridge/hcreole
বাংলা: masspowerchoice.com/cambridge/bengali
አማርኛ: masspowerchoice.com/cambridge/amharic
masspowerchoice.com/cambridge/arabic العربية

December 12, 2023

Dear Cambridge Electricity Customer,

This notice contains important information about a price change on your Eversource electric bill.

Your electricity account is enrolled in the Cambridge Community Electricity Program, the City's electricity program. The program gives you a Cambridge price for the Supply portion of your Eversource electric bill. You are enrolled in the **Standard Green option**.

In January, Cambridge's current electricity supply contract with Direct Energy Services, LLC, ("Direct Energy") will end, and a new, 24-month contract with Direct Energy will go into effect. **The new contract will bring two changes:**

- 1. More renewable electricity:** The amount of electricity you receive from MA Class I renewable energy projects will increase from the state minimum to 50% for each year of the contract.
- 2. New prices:** The current electricity supply contract was signed in 2020 and has kept our prices low. However, electricity supply prices have risen significantly since then because of volatility in global energy markets. Cambridge Community Electricity Program prices will move to market levels when the Direct Energy contract takes effect.

▶ **Your new price for the Standard Green option: 14.81 ¢/kWh**

The new price is fixed for 24 months, from January 2024 - January 2026.

Your new electricity supply price will be higher than your current price, but it is lower than Eversource's upcoming residential Basic Service price of 17.251 ¢/kWh, which will be in effect from January 1 through July 31, 2024. *Please note that because Eversource's prices change and future prices are not known, savings beyond that date cannot be guaranteed.*

Your options:

- ▶ **Take no action and remain in the Cambridge Community Electricity Program.** If you wish to continue participating in the Standard Green option, no action is required. Your enrollment will renew automatically at the new price in January 2024. You will first see the new price on your February 2024 Eversource electric bill.
- ▶ **Change to another option in the program.** You may choose to opt up to the 100% Green Plus option and receive 100% of your electricity from MA Class I renewable energy projects or choose the Economy Green option and receive just the minimum amount of renewable energy required by law.
- ▶ **Leave the program with no penalty or fee.** You are free to either return to Eversource's Basic Service pricing or sign your own contract with an electricity supplier.

To make a change, visit MassPowerChoice.com/Cambridge or contact customer support with the City's program consultants at 1-844-379-9934. Please have your Eversource electricity account number ready when you call.

(More information on the back. ▶)

Your options in the Cambridge Community Electricity Program

The chart below can help you decide whether to remain enrolled in your current option, change to another option, or opt out and return to Eversource's Basic Service. To make a change, visit [MassPowerChoice.com/Cambridge](https://www.masspowerchoice.com/Cambridge) or contact customer support with the City's program consultants at 1-844-379-9934.

Cambridge Community Electricity Program options:			You are enrolled here ▼		If you do not wish to participate:	
	Economy Green	Standard Green	100% Green Plus	Eversource's Basic Service		
	Minimum renewable energy required by law	50% from MA Class I renewable energy projects	100% from MA Class I renewable energy projects	if you opt out		
Price	13.82 ¢/kWh*	14.81 ¢/kWh*	16.82 ¢/kWh*	17.251 ¢/kWh - Residential 17.587 ¢/kWh - Small business 19.098 ¢/kWh - Large business		
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Electricity from MA Class I renewable energy projects						
Added by Cambridge	2024	-	26%	76%	-	
	2025	-	23%	73%	-	
	2026	-	20%	70%	-	
Required by state law	2024	24%	24%	24%	24%	
	2025	27%	27%	27%	27%	
	2026	30%	30%	30%	30%	
Total	2024	24%	50%	100%	24%	
	2025	27%	50%	100%	27%	
	2026	30%	50%	100%	30%	
Electricity from other clean or renewable sources**						
Required by state law	2024	38%	38%	38%	38%	
	2025	36%	36%	36%	36%	
	2026	39%	39%	39%	39%	
Exit terms	Leave any time. No exit charge.	Leave any time. No exit charge.	Leave any time. No exit charge.	Leave any time. No exit charge. However, large business customers may receive a billing adjustment charge or credit.		

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The City of Cambridge will be hosting two webinars in early 2024 to provide an opportunity for you to learn more and ask questions about the Cambridge Community Electricity Program.

▶ For more details and to register, visit: [www.MassPowerChoice.com/Cambridge](https://www.masspowerchoice.com/Cambridge)



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

A NOTIFICATION FROM THE CITY ABOUT A CHANGE IN YOUR ELECTRICITY SUPPLY PRICE

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አማርኛ: masspowerchoice.com/cambridge/amharic
masspowerchoice.com/cambridge/arabic العربية

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In January, Cambridge's current electricity supply contract with Direct Energy Services, LLC, ("Direct Energy") will end, and a new, 24-month contract with Direct Energy will go into effect. **The new contract will bring new prices.**

The current electricity supply contract was signed in 2020 and has kept our prices low. However, electricity supply prices have risen significantly since then because of volatility in global energy markets. Cambridge Community Electricity Program prices will move to market levels when the Direct Energy contract takes effect.

▶ **Your new price for the 100% Green Plus option: 16.82 ¢/kWh**

The new price is fixed for 24 months, from January 2024 - January 2026.

Your new electricity supply price will be higher than your current price, but it is lower than Eversource's upcoming residential Basic Service price of 17.251 ¢/kWh, which will be in effect from January 1 through July 31, 2024. *Please note that because Eversource's prices change and future prices are not known, savings beyond that date cannot be guaranteed.*

Your options:

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- ▶ **Change to another option in the program.** You may choose the Standard Green option to receive 50% of your electricity from MA Class I renewable energy projects or choose the Economy Green option to receive just the minimum amount of renewable energy required by law.
- ▶ **Leave the program with no penalty or fee.** You are free to either return to Eversource's Basic Service pricing or sign your own contract with an electricity supplier.

To make a change, visit MassPowerChoice.com/Cambridge or contact customer support with the City's program consultants at 1-844-379-9934. Please have your Eversource electricity account number ready when you call.

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	2026	30%	30%	30%	30%
Total	2024	24%	50%	100%	24%
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Electricity from other clean or renewable sources**					
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▶ For more details and to register, visit: www.masspowerchoice.com/Cambridge

Attachment IV.B.7.b.i Annual Product Information

Table IV.B.7.b.i Annual Product Information – All customer classes			
2023		Standard Green (Default)	100% Green Plus (Opt-In)
Rate Components (in \$/kWh)			
Supply and Renewable Energy Content			0.09925
Consultant Services			0.00075
Municipality Services			0.00200
TOTAL			0.10200
Renewable Energy Content (in % of total)			
Required			59.17
Voluntary	MA Class I		78.07
TOTAL			137.24
Supplier Name			Direct Energy Service, LLC
Effective Dates			January 15, 2021 – January 15, 2024

Table IV.B.7.b.i Annual Product Information – All customer classes				
2023	Standard Green (Default)		100% Green Plus (Opt-In)	
Participants	#	kWh	#	kWh
Residential	33,687	141,510,940	1,641	8,644,485
Low-Income	1,865	8,082,676	14	39,552
Small Commercial & Industrial	4,717	136,561,926	121	2,147,903
Large Commercial & Industrial	142	122,177,248	2	604,000
TOTAL	40,411	408,332,790	1,778	11,435,940

Attachment IV.B.7.b.ii Annual Product Rate Component Information

Table IV.B.7.b.ii – Annual Product Rate Component Information	
Rate Component	Revenue (in \$)
Supply and Renewable Content	42,058,759
Consultant Services	314,827
Municipality Services	839,537

Descriptions:

Supply and Renewable Content

The Supply and Renewable Content rate component covers the cost of the products and services necessary to provide firm power supply to program participants, including:

- electrical energy;
- capacity;
- reserves;
- ancillary services;
- transmission services;
- the cost of distribution system losses; and
- congestion management.

This rate component also covers the cost of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs), including:

- the RECs needed to meet the requirements of state law; and
- the additional RECs specified by the City.

Consultant Services

The Consultant Services rate component covers the costs of administering the program, including:

- assisting the City in proceedings before the Department of Public Utilities, including securing regulatory approvals and maintaining regulatory compliance;
- conducting procurements for electricity supply as needed;
- providing customer support by telephone and email;
- providing public education, including through in-person events, printed communications (signs, banners, brochures), electronic communications (video, slides), and social media;

- developing and maintaining a comprehensive, branded program website, including ongoing updates to ensure regulatory compliance;
- receiving customer requests to enroll, change program options, or opt-out; forwarding those requests to the electricity supplier; and monitoring implementation;
- overseeing periodic automatic-enrollment mailings to new customers;
- monitoring electricity supplier performance;
- monitoring electricity market and regulatory developments; and
- preparing reports to the Department of Public Utilities and the City.

Municipality Services

The Municipality Services rate component is used to support the development of new renewable generating projects, the RECs from which will be retired for the benefit of Program participants.

Attachment IV.B.7.b.iii Annual Voluntary Renewable Energy Content
Information

Table IV.B.7.b.iii – Voluntary Annual Renewable Energy Information	
Category of Renewable Energy	MWh/Certificates
MA Class I	9,214

Mechanism by which the purchases/retirements were tracked:

MA Class I

NEPOOL Generation Information System.