



City of Beverly, Massachusetts

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Re: New electricity program to launch in May for Beverly residents and businesses

BEVERLY – The City of Beverly is pleased to announce the launch of Beverly Community Electric, a type of group electricity buying program from the City that gives residents and businesses more choice and control over how we power our community. Beverly joins nearly 170 other Massachusetts communities that have this type of electricity program (called an “aggregation”), including Salem, Hamilton, and Gloucester. While the program cannot guarantee savings, historically residents and businesses have saved money compared to their utility’s Basic Service prices over the course of the community aggregation contract.

Through Beverly Community Electric and the collective buying power of the community, Beverly electricity customers will get more of their electricity from renewable sources for a price that is over 20 percent lower than National Grid’s current residential Basic Service price. Beverly received state regulatory approval for the program in December 2023 and the program will go into effect this May.

Beverly Community Electric participants will see a change in their electricity supplier and in the price that National Grid uses to calculate the Supply Services portion of their electric bill. However, National Grid remains Beverly’s electric utility, and they will continue to deliver electricity in Beverly, address power outages, and send electric bills.

The program has three options. New participants in Beverly Community Electric will be automatically enrolled in the Beverly Standard option and will receive an additional 10% of their electricity from renewable sources for 13.919 ¢/kWh, a savings of more than 4 ¢/kWh compared to National Grid’s current residential price of 18.213 ¢/kWh. Residents can choose two additional options in the program: Beverly 100% Clean provides electricity that is 100% from renewable sources for 14.999 ¢/kWh, and Beverly Basic provides the minimum renewable electricity required by state law for 13.519¢/kWh.

The City has signed a contract with First Point Power that will keep Beverly Community Electric prices fixed and stable for 20 months. In comparison, National Grid's Basic Service prices change every 6 months or less, and their future prices are not known.

For most Beverly electricity customers, no action is required to participate. In accordance with state law, Beverly Community Electric uses an automatic enrollment model for electricity customers in Beverly with National Grid's Basic Service. The City will mail opt-out notices in late February and automatic enrollment notifications with program details in late March.

Participation in Beverly Community Electric is not required. Beverly electricity customers have the right to opt out of the program before being automatically enrolled, or can try the program and opt out at any time with no penalty or fee. Those who opt out will remain with National Grid's Basic Service. Information about how to opt out will be included in the automatic enrollment notification and on the program website.

Electricity customers who have signed private electricity supply contracts will not be enrolled automatically, but they can request enrollment online at BeverlyCommunityElectric.com or over the phone by calling the City's program consultants at 1-833-350-1631. Those with private contracts are encouraged to first check the terms of their electricity supply agreement before making a change to avoid penalties like early termination fees.

Anyone eligible for a low-income discount from National Grid will continue to receive that discount. In addition, anyone receiving solar credits or incentive payments will continue to receive them with no change to how the credits or incentive payments themselves are calculated.

The public is invited to two public information sessions about the program:

- March 4th, 2024 from 6:30PM-8:00 PM (Virtual): Access this Zoom public meeting from the City of Beverly calendar.
- March 15th, 2024 from 12:00 PM-1:30 PM (In-Person): Beverly Council on Aging, 90 Colon Street

More information about the program is available at BeverlyCommunityElectric.com or by calling customer support with Beverly's program consultants at 1-833-350-1631. If you require an ASL interpreter, please make that request via the customer support form on BeverlyCommunityElectric.com or by sending an email to support@BeverlyCommunityElectric.com, and please note that an information session with interpretation services may need to be scheduled on a different date from the general public information sessions.

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