

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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February 14, 2024

Epping Community Power Encourages Residents to Vote YES on Article 20

Epping, NH – The Epping Community Power Committee is encouraging town residents to vote YES on Article 20, authorizing the town to adopt a Community Power Plan intended to help electricity customers save money. Voting will take place on Tuesday March 12, from 7 am to 7 pm at the Epping High School.

Under RSA 53-E, the Community Power Law, towns can pursue electric cost savings through electricity aggregation—in other words, by bundling consumer power to get the lowest possible rates. At the recommendation of the Epping Electric Aggregation Committee, the Epping Select Board has voted to join the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH).

As a nonprofit power supplier rather than a regulated utility, CPCNH helps New Hampshire cities and towns share and maximize the benefits and savings of community power programs statewide. There is no cost to join CPCNH, and the existing utility companies (e.g., Eversource and Unitil) will continue to operate and repair electrical transmission lines. Since it launched in March 2023, CPCNH has saved more than \$10 million for the state’s residential and small commercial ratepayers. For example, it has announced a base rate of 8.1¢ per kilowatt-hour for these ratepayers from February 1 through July 31, 2024. Customers do not need to do anything to receive these lower rates. They can, however, opt in to slightly higher rates for cleaner energy, if they wish.

Article 20 reads:

To see if the Town of Epping will vote to adopt the Epping Community Power plan, to authorize the Selectmen to implement the plan, and to take all action in furtherance thereof, pursuant to RSA 53-E. The Epping Community Power plan is an opt-out program that offers more flexible electricity procurement. The plan will initially provide lower electricity rates for residents, or it will not launch. Initial participation in the plan can be declined, after which enrollment becomes voluntary.

[Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-2]

Majority Vote Required

Information about Community Power programs is available at www.CommunityPowerNH.gov and www.cpcnh.org. For more information about the Epping Community Power coalition, visit <https://www.townofepping.com/epping-community-power>.