

**ALTERNATIVE ENERGY COMMITTEE
TOWN OF DUXBURY, MASSACHUSETTS**

FAQ's ABOUT GREEN MUNICIPAL AGGREGATION

What is *municipal aggregation*?

Municipal aggregation, also referred to as community choice aggregation (CCA), is a process by which towns and cities purchase electricity supply in bulk on behalf of residential and business customers within their municipality. This process has been available to Massachusetts municipalities (except those served by their own municipal power plant) since 1997.

With municipal aggregation, how is the power distributed?

With municipal aggregation, what is being purchased is the electrical generation; transmission and distribution of the electrical energy is performed by the local electric utility company. (For Duxbury, that company is Eversource.)

What is the purpose of municipal aggregation?

With municipal aggregation, energy can be purchased in bulk by the community, resulting in purchasing power. Also, energy purchase contracts can extend beyond the six month contract provided by the electrical utilities.

Can an individual opt out of the municipal aggregation?

An individual residential or commercial customer can opt out at any time. Those choosing to opt out will pay the Basic Service rate as set by the utility.

What about billing?

Billing continues to be handled by the electrical utility. Also, service interruption issues are handled by the utility.

What if I have solar panels?

Whether you own or lease, your relation with the electrical grid remains the same. If your demand exceeds production, the aggregation rate will be in effect, unless you choose to opt out.

What if I have signed up with a third-party provider?

Your contract with that provider does not change.

Does municipal aggregation result in lower rates?

Studies by independent agencies reveal that although municipal aggregation rates do not in every case result in lower rates as compared to the current Basic Service Rate offered by the utilities, the majority of aggregation plans show significant savings over time. A local example: Plymouth just renewed its contract resulting in a rate 8% lower than Eversource's *summer* rate. Importantly, the opt-out feature is part of any aggregation contract.

What is *green* municipal aggregation?

In Massachusetts, all utilities are required to have renewable (green) energy production as part of its portfolio. With green municipal aggregation, municipalities choose to increase that percentage of renewables (hydropower, solar power, wind power, biomass generation). Communities decide upon the renewable percentage. For example, Plymouth's new contract calls for 100% of its electrical energy to be produced by renewables.

Where is Duxbury in the process of creating a municipal aggregation program?

The March, 2016 Town Meeting approved creating a municipal aggregation plan. However, it was not until 2023 that an aggregation broker was selected. The Town of Duxbury contracted with Colonial Power to be its broker. Colonial Power helped the town with the plan creation, submission of the plan to the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities. Once the DPU gives its approval, Colonial Power will help the town with public education and gathering community input. A plan will be created, and Colonial Power will oversee the implementation of the plan including obtaining final town approval and contracting with an energy production company. All administrative details will be handled by Colonial Power.

When can Duxbury expect to have an active green municipal aggregation plan?

Given current circumstances, the process will take at a minimum several months.

In the meantime, where can one learn about green municipal aggregation?

The AEC has found the following websites helpful:

<https://www.mapc.org/our-work/expertise/clean-energy/green-municipal-aggregation/>

(From the Metropolitan Area Planning Council)

<https://www.greenenergyconsumers.org/aggregation>

(From the Green Energy Consumers Alliance)

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/municipal-aggregation>

(From the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources)