



HAMPSHIRE COUNCIL
OF GOVERNMENTS



The Role of Municipalities in the Massachusetts Clean Energy Revolution

AQPER Conference
March 12, 2015

Massachusetts

A LEADER IN CLEAN ENERGY

- Rated #1 by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy 4 years in a row (2011, 2012, 2013, 2014)
- Aggressive GHG emission reduction targets
- Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS); 1% increase per year
- **DOER - Green Communities Program**
 - Goals: understand & reduce energy usage, increase renewables
 - 136 Green Communities (out of 351 municipalities)
 - Grants to implement clean energy projects
 - Provides access to additional clean energy programs
 - Solarize Massachusetts (Partnership with MassCEC)



Massachusetts Communities

THE POWER TO CHOOSE

COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION (CCA)

- CCA = Mechanism through which a municipality can purchase electricity in bulk for electricity consumers located within its limits (residents, businesses, non profits, etc.)
- CCA = unique opportunity to bring green power to a large number of customers at once
- CCAs in Massachusetts = 70+ municipalities either currently receiving power through aggregation or in the process of becoming CCAs



Massachusetts Communities

THE POWER TO CHOOSE

MANY CCAs ARE CHOOSING TO GO GREEN

- **Lowell Aggregation:** 109,000 people; 330,000 MWh annually. The City greened up the load by purchasing Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) for the entire load.
- **Lancaster Aggregation:** 7,500 people; 25,000 MWh annually. The Town greened up the load by purchasing all the RECs from Town owned solar field. This allowed the Town to finance a solar array while greening up the community's overall supply mix.
- **Berkshire Aggregation:** Currently 10 communities; 18,000 meters using 220,000 MWh annually. Looking for a 100% green product for 3-5 years. Willing to contract immediately.



THE LOWELL AGGREGATION

- **Green Community since 2010** (first round)
 - Energy use baseline
 - Plan to reduce energy use by 20% in 5 years
 - Encourage renewable/alternative energy generation
 - Electric vehicles
- **Lowell CCA**
 - Agent for the Lowell Aggregation - Colonial Power Group
 - Electricity Supplier - Hampshire Power
 - Electricity contract - 3 years; 100% of load backed low impact hydro RECs generated in New England
 - Interested in purchasing electricity directly from hydro facility



RESOURCES

Massachusetts Green Communities

- **Green Communities home page:**
<http://www.mass.gov/eea/energy-utilities-clean-tech/green-communities/>
- **How to become a Green Community and qualify for grants:**
<http://www.mass.gov/eea/energy-utilities-clean-tech/green-communities/gc-grant-program/>
- **Grants page:**
<http://www.mass.gov/eea/grants-and-tech-assistance/guidance-technical-assistance/agencies-and-divisions/doer/doer-procurements.html>

Progress Report on the Green Communities Program:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/doer/green-communities/pubs-reports/gc-progress-report.pdf>

Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) & MA Renewable Energy Programs

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/energy-utilities-clean-tech/renewable-energy/>

Hampshire Council of Governments Community Choice Aggregation Program

<http://www.hampshirecog.org/programs-and-services/electricity-services/municipal-aggregation>

Hampshire Power

<http://www.hampshirecog.org/programs-and-services/electricity-services/hampshire-power>

Colonial Power Group

<http://www.colonialpowergroup.com/>





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