



CONCORD COMMUNITY POWER PRESENTATION

**by Rob Werner, Joe Kwasnik and Chuck Willing for the Concord Community Power
Subcommittee and the Concord Energy and Environment Advisory Committee**

Tuesday, November 14, 2023
City Wide Community Center, 14 Canterbury Road, Concord, NH

How We Got to Today's Electricity System

- 1996 – New Hampshire enacted an electric utility restructuring law
 - Goals: de-monopolize power sector, give customers more choice, lower costs, enable market innovation
 - Effect: Utilities sold generation facilities, gave up monopoly on electricity sales to retail customers, became poles/wires companies and electricity buying agent for customers
- C&I customers did well (contracted with competitive electric suppliers), residential customers did not do well (about 90% still on default service)



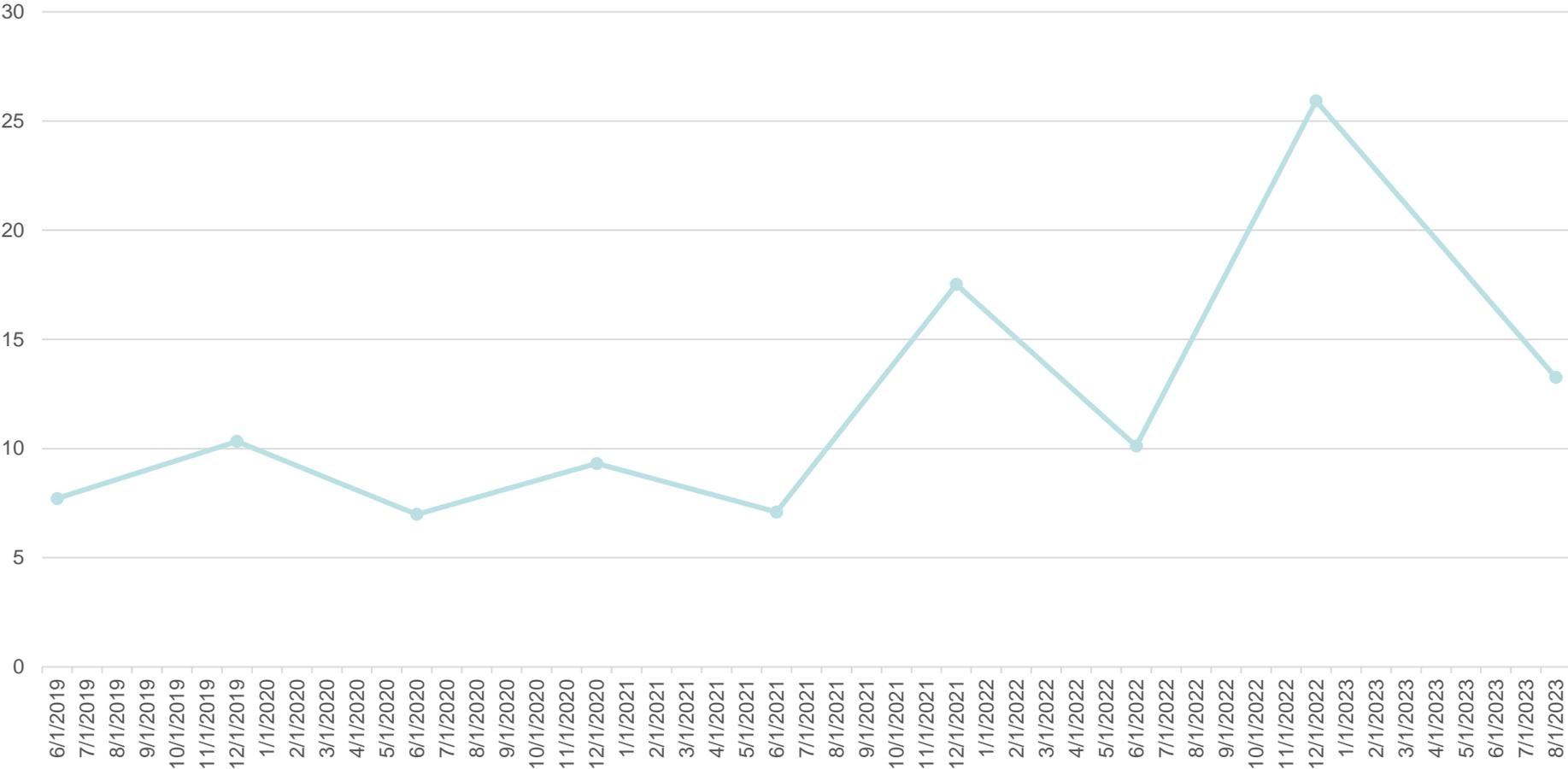
Utility Electricity Prices Exposed to Natural Gas Price

- Utilities (Unitil) have been required to go out to market for 100% of power needs every 6 months
- Have purchased through ISO-New England wholesale markets, where natural gas is dominant and the marginal price fuel source.
- SB54 (long-term PPAs) might change this somewhat.
- Utilities pass through fuel costs (without making money) to ratepayers, who are subject to natural gas price swings.



Unitil Residential Energy Rates (last 5 years)

Unitil Residential Default Retail Energy Rate (cents/kwh)



What Is Community Power?

- Basically, community power means the city, town or county is assuming the role of default energy service provider from the utility
- Authorized by RSA 53-E. Key statutory amendment in 2019 to allow “opt-out”
- The community (via City Council in Concord) decides whether to pursue Community Power.



Why Do Community Power?

- Save money/reduce price volatility
- Increase amount of renewable energy over state law requirements (currently 23.4%, maxes out at 25.2% from 2025 on)
- Enable innovative energy solutions based on local conditions



Would Help Concord Meet Its 100% Renewable Energy Goal

It is the goal of the City of Concord that **100% of electricity consumed in the City will come from renewable energy sources by 2030**, 100% of thermal energy (heating and cooling) consumed in the City will come from renewable energy sources by 2050, and 100% of transportation used in the City will be clean transportation by 2050. **This goal will apply to the entire Concord community, not just municipal government operations.**

(Adopted by City Council 7/9/18, emphasis added)



If Adopted, How Would Community Power Work in Concord?

- CEEAC will likely recommend that City pursue “Opt-Out”
- Before Community Power begins in Concord, you (residents) would receive notification from the City:
 - If you currently receive energy from Unitil, notification will give you the chance to opt out of community power. If you make no election, you will be in the program.
 - If you currently receive energy from a competitive electric supplier, notification will give you the chance to opt into community power. If you do not opt in, you will remain on competitive supply.
- Anybody in the CP program at the start may choose from among four product choices: (a) same RE% as utility, (b) 33% RE, (c) 50% RE, or (d) 100% RE. Either (a) or (b) will be the default choice.



What Would Community Power Mean for Residents/Customers?

- You receive one bill from Unitil containing your energy charge (for community power) along with Unitil's distribution and other charges (like how competitive supply is handled)
- We don't expect to launch program without a price savings at the start. We think there is likely to be continuing energy price savings over time but there is no guarantee.
- Treatment of net metering customers will be addressed by City's Community Power plan and in implementation. Presently data sharing issues with utilities are affecting integration of net metering customers into community power programs. Hopefully this will be resolved by the time Concord would launch a program.



Two Potential Community Power Models

- Community Power Models:
 - Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire Model
 - Consultant/Supplier Model (e.g., Standard Power).
- CEEAC will recommend one model or the other to the City Council along with a draft plan.



What Are Other Communities Doing?

- 16 communities launched Community Power Programs in May/June 2023

Coalition Model

Canterbury*

Enfield

Exeter

Hanover

Harrisville

Lebanon

Nashua

Peterborough

Plainfield

Portsmouth

Rye

Walpole

Consultant/Supplier Model (Standard Power)

Keene*

Marlborough

Swanzey

Wilton

- Dover recently launched, and Cheshire County (for 3 towns) will launch this month.
- About 30 other communities are expected to launch Spring 2024.
- Many other New Hampshire communities are considering community power programs.



Sequence to Implementation/Launch

- 10/3/23 and 11/14/23 – Public Input Sessions
- January 2024 – Committee Recommends Draft Community Power Plan to City Council
- City Council Approves Community Power Plan (after notice/public hearing) and makes necessary authorizations
- New Hampshire PUC Approves Concord’s Community Power Plan
- Concord Signs Agreements with Coalition or a Consultant/Broker and Supplier
- Prepare for program launch.
- Notices (opt-out opportunity) and public information session(s) before launch
- Launch/Implementation (perhaps as early as July 1, 2024, possibly later)



Upcoming Energy Event This Month

Learn about improving the energy efficiency of your home!

Free Button Up Home Energy Workshop sponsored by NHSaves: **Wednesday, November 29** from 6-7:30 pm in the Concord Library Auditorium, 45 Green St.



Improve the energy efficiency of your home.

FREE Home Energy Workshop



NHsaves Button Up Workshop is a 1½ hour presentation about improving the energy efficiency of your home. It covers energy saving tips and NHSaves energy efficiency programs. Learn about saving electricity, insulation and air sealing, energy audit and weatherization programs, rebates on electric and gas appliances, and other incentives from NH's energy utilities. New Hampshire residents that want to use energy wisely and save money will find the information very useful.

WHEN NEW HAMPSHIRE SAVES,

we all win.



NHSaves.com
Workshops are organized by Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative, (PAREI)
www.PlymouthEnergy.org • 603-536-5030

Visit https://nhsaves.com/learn/?resource_type=event for dates and locations of all Button Ups.

Join us for a **NHsaves** Button Up Workshop

WHEN:

Wed., November 29, 6:00–7:30 P.M.

WHERE:

Concord Library Auditorium
45 Green Street
Concord, New Hampshire

PRESENTER:

Andy Duncan, *Energy Trainer*

QUESTIONS:

Beth Fenstermacher
bfenstermacher@concordnh.gov

SPONSORED BY:

NHSaves: www.nhsaves.com

LOCAL PARTNERS:

Concord Library
City of Concord
Energy and Environment
Advisory Committee

The workshops are FREE thanks to funding provided by



Questions?

