



COUNTY OF MERRIMACK

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To: Merrimack County Town Select Boards, Energy Committees, and Interested Citizens

Subject: Invitation to Merrimack County Community Power Committee — January 30, 2024

We hope you will accept this invitation to join us on **January 30, 2024** at **11:00 AM** at the Merrimack County Administrative Offices, located at **333 Daniel Webster Highway, Boscawen, NH** for a meeting of the Merrimack County Community Power Committee.

In December 2023, the Merrimack County Board of Commissioners took initial steps towards developing a county-wide Community Power program by establishing an Electric Aggregation Committee (Community Power Committee) and voting to join the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire, a statewide nonprofit electricity supplier created by counties and municipalities.

The Committee is actively working towards developing Merrimack County Community Power, a program aimed at assisting electricity customers throughout the county in saving money on their electricity bills while expanding clean energy options.

To facilitate the creation of this program, the Committee invites participation by members of select boards, local energy committees, or other community leaders or citizens who are interested in bringing the benefits of Community Power to their city or town. The **January 30th, 2024** meeting will serve as an opportunity to present our plan for Merrimack County Community Power, and to continue the dialogue with interested communities on how we can collaborate to shape a program that maximizes benefits for all of our residents and businesses.

Under Community Power programs, electric distribution utilities continue to own and maintain the power lines and infrastructure while local communities gain control over the cost of their energy and where it is sourced from. Numerous cities and towns across New Hampshire have either implemented or are pursuing Community Power and generating millions of dollars in savings for their residents and businesses.

A county-wide approach helps to streamline access Community Power benefits and savings, while maintaining full local control, in two ways:

1. Once the program is launched, any electric customer within the county may elect to join into the program and benefit from lower rates and expanded energy choices;
2. Towns that choose to participate by majority vote of their select board may select Merrimack County Community Power as the default electricity supply option.

The meeting will include presentation on the draft Merrimack County Community Power Plan and discussion on everything Merrimack towns need to know to participate in the benefits of Merrimack County Community Power.


Merrimack County is committed to utilizing its authorities under the state's Community Power law to streamline lower electric rates and innovative energy options for customers in all towns within the county. We hope you will join us at the Merrimack County Community Power Committee Meeting and help us to lead this Community Power movement for New Hampshire.

Sincerely,


Merrimack County Board of Commissioners



Tara Reardon
Chair



Stuart D. Trachy
Vice Chair



David M. Lovlien Jr.
Clerk