

Wilmot Community Power FAQs

RSA 53-E created the necessary legal framework for community power. The central conceit is to aggregate many small energy consumers under one umbrella, so they can act as a single customer when they contract for energy services (i.e., analogous to a “buying club”).

- A municipal aggregator can build its own portfolio of energy sources and offer several different combinations to consumers. Some products may emphasize renewable energy while other may emphasize affordability.
- A municipality may choose to generate its own power to feed into the grid for distribution to its aggregate members, but this is not a required part of a community power plan. Wilmot could conceivably buy power from another municipality that generates its own.
- The energy distributor (mostly the N.H. Energy Cooperative, in our case) remains the same and continues to bill the aggregator customers.
- It is not required that a resident to join a municipal aggregate. A plan can be either opt-in or opt-out. If it goes forward as the latter, then all residents must receive by mail an invitation to opt-out.
- The first step in the process is to form a community power plan committee with the consent of the select board. By statute the plan created by the committee must detail:
 - Organizational structure of the program.
 - Operation and funding.
 - Rate setting and other costs to participants.
 - Methods for entering and terminating agreements with other entities.
 - Rights and responsibilities of participants (e.g., opt-in or opt-out).
 - Net-metering scheme for participants exporting to the grid.
 - Plan for participants enrolled in Electric Assistance Program.
 - Plan for termination of the program.
- The committee will solicit public input and hold public hearings.
- After it is accepted by the select board, the final plan becomes a warrant article for town meeting.
- If the plan is adopted at town meeting, the aggregator must then hold a public information meeting.
- Those who do not participate will get energy through the regional utility.
- New residents will initially be enrolled in utility-provided service and then be contacted by the aggregator and invited to join.
- Existence of a municipal aggregator does not preclude the local existence of a private aggregator.
- The Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (cpcnh.org) exists to
 - help municipalities put together their power plans,
 - provide ongoing support,
 - coordinate larger scale developments,
 - provide expertise and information,
 - represent the interest of community aggregators at the state level.
- There are no upfront costs to join the CPCNH; they recoup their expenses out of the earnings of the aggregators.