

THE PROBLEM

Connecticut towns and cities could play a much greater role in increasing the use of renewable energy while reducing the cost of electricity for all ratepayers, but Connecticut law stands in the way. **Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)** would allow municipalities to choose their electricity provider, allowing them to purchase from cleaner, cheaper sources than the utility. Power continues to be delivered through the utility, and any ratepayer is free to opt out at any time.

CCA is not currently authorized in Connecticut, though individual electric customers can already choose a competitive supplier. When individuals choose a supplier other than the utility, it can lead to serious consumer protection problems, as some suppliers offering misleading or fraudulent contracts. Since a CCA purchases power with professional energy expertise and regulatory oversight, it is a partial remedy for this problem.

A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION

Connecticut should allow CCA to enable our towns and businesses to unite as power-purchasing entities. This can increase our use of renewable energy while reducing costs, which can be especially important for low and moderate income ratepayers.

CCA requires no state or municipal funds. Rather, procurement is funded through the CCA's revenue stream, just as it is now done when a utility procures electricity on behalf of ratepayers. More proactive CCAs have developed their own clean energy and energy efficiency projects, thus reducing and shaping a community's energy demand profile.

CCA can be a powerful tool to ensure Connecticut meets its clean energy goals.

MORE INFORMATION

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ENSURING EQUITY IN CCA

Towns and cities have greater purchasing power than individual customers, and thus have a greater opportunity to clean up our environment. Low income and minority populations are most affected by air pollution from dirty energy sources. CCA can drastically curb pollution and ensure clean air and water for our most vulnerable communities.

FAST FACTS

- Nationwide, CCA electric rate **savings average between 2% and 20%** depending on market conditions and power resources.
- **All of our neighboring states allow for CCA**, including Massachusetts, New York, and Rhode Island. California, Illinois, New Jersey, Ohio Virginia and most recently New Hampshire also allow for CCA.
- Newtown, MA recently signed a contract where ratepayers will purchase 60% of electricity from renewable sources.