

Cornish Community Power Plan Summary

This is an abbreviated 3 page summary of the actual 47 page Plan [LINK](#)

This Summary follows the structure of the longer Plan. *Note: This Summary is offered as a guide only, and should not be relied upon to represent the actual Plan.*

Overview: Cornish Community Power (CCP) is a program authorized under New Hampshire law (RSA 53-E) that enables Cornish to provide electricity supply service for the Town's residents and businesses. By joining a larger pool of participating customers, CCP would be able to expand buying power and thereby offer residents greater stability in electricity prices, local control over sources of electricity, and innovative energy services.

1. The program will launch only if it is able to offer residential default rates that are initially lower than those offered by the Electric Distribution Utilities; thereafter, the program is not required to do so, but will strive to maintain competitive rates for all its customers, since that is the only way it will succeed.
2. Customer participation in Cornish Community Power will be completely voluntary. Most customers will be automatically enrolled in CCP, but anyone can opt-out and opt back in at any time as long as it is in advance of the next billing cycle date. Customers can also choose to opt-up to products that offer a greater percentage of renewable energy.
3. CCP will be self-funded through participating customers; the Town will never levy taxes to cover program expenses.
4. The Electric Distribution Utilities will continue to own and operate the grid, deliver electricity to all customers within the town, bill customers and respond to outages.

Customer Notification & Enrollment: 30 days in advance of launch, customers will be mailed detailed information about CCP, and will be notified about all their options.

Community Power Coalition of NH (CPCNH): CPCNH is a non-profit electricity purchasing agency that is composed of more than 60 NH communities that use their combined pool of customers to achieve expanded purchasing power. The Cornish Selectboard voted to become a non-binding member of CPCNH, in order to take advantage of their resources in planning CCP.

The Cornish Selectboard appointed Jason Bourne as member representative to CPCNH and Joanna Sharf as Alternate member representative.

The Cornish Community Power Committee (aka the Cornish Energy Committee, the "Committee") was tasked by the Selectboard with drafting this Community Power Plan (the "Plan") which sets forth the goals, governance, implementation process, and compliance with applicable statutes & regulations for CCP.

This Plan does not require Cornish to contract with CPCNH. The Select Board, with support from the Committee, retains the power to contract for all required program services and electricity supplies, to set rates, and to pursue related projects independently of the Coalition.

Approval Process: At least two public hearings on this Plan will be held at the Town Offices. The dates & times of these hearings are: Thurs. Nov. 14th 6:30-8PM & Tues. Dec. 3rd, 6:30-8PM.

At the Public Hearings, this Plan will be presented in detail and there will be an opportunity for residents to ask questions and provide input. The full text of the plan can be found here: [LINK](#)

In mid-January, the plan will be submitted to the Public Utilities Commission for review and approval. The PUC review process normally takes about 60 days.

Following the Public Hearings and further review by the Select Board, this Plan will be submitted for consideration by the voters at the Cornish Town Meeting in March 2025. Adoption will require a majority of those present and voting. If approved at Town Meeting, the Select Board will be authorized to contract for the necessary professional services to launch CCP.

Implementation

Under the plan, the Select Board has two options for implementing the program:

1. Hire a commercial electricity broker/consultant and contract with a competitive electric power supplier to provide all the electricity and related services necessary to launch CCP.
2. Partner with the non-profit CPCNH, which would provide all of the electricity and related services required to operate CCP.

The Cornish Energy Committee recommends that the Selectboard choose to partner with CPCNH because of its openly transparent governance structure, its non-profit status, its presence as a NH-based entity, its commitment to green energy goals, its innovative energy solutions products, its financial reserve fund that will keep prices steady in spite of volatile energy prices, and its expert risk management staff.

The Selectboard, with help from the Committee, will contract for the necessary services and power suppliers to implement and operate the program and continue to provide oversight over the program thereafter. Decisions made by the Select Board regarding how to best implement and operate Cornish Community Power, including the approval of agreements with selected service providers, will be made at duly noticed public meetings.

IF Cornish partners with CPCNH: After approval at Town Meeting 2025, the Selectboard will need to review and approve several CPCNH agreements:

1. Cost Sharing Agreement and Member Services Contract: CPCNH would collect revenues from program customers on the Town's behalf and would recover expenses incurred on behalf of CCP.
2. Data Security and Privacy Policy: Establishes protection of confidential customer data.
3. Energy Portfolio Risk Management, Retail Rates, & Financial Reserves Policies.

The Selectboard will also have the option to appoint an Authorized Officer and a Principal Executive Officer, who can take specific actions on behalf of the Town if so authorized by the Selectboard.

CPCNH's Board of Directors and various Member Representative Committees will meet regularly and provide oversight and direction, supported by a qualified CEO and staff experts.

Description of Cornish Community Power's Goals & Objectives: 100% renewably powered electricity by 2030, transportation & heating by 2050. Lower rates, expanded choice, fiscal stability & financial reserves, consumer protection, public advocacy, cleaner local power, resilience, collaboration with other towns, limitation of liability, reduce fossil fuel consumption, support growth of local businesses.

Solar Power & Net Metering: At this time if you are a Net Metered customer, you will NOT be automatically enrolled into Cornish Community Power until such time as electric distribution utilities are able to share net metering export data to allow for proper service and crediting of net metering exports to the grid. CPCNH is actively working with utilities and state regulators to resolve this issue, and plans to offer advantageous net metering terms to renewable energy-generating customers.

Electricity Rates Offered by CPCNH: CPCNH sets and adjusts rates twice a year, in order to synchronize with the major utility's rate-setting periods which occur every 6 months. CPCNH offers 4 rate options with varying renewable energy content: Granite Basic (the default & lowest cost option); Granite Plus, Clean 50 and Clean 100.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS:

Organizational structure: Selectboard with support from the Committee has overall governance authority. Changes to policies will be made at duly noticed public hearings. The Selectboard with support from the Committee can enter into and terminate any necessary agreements.

Operation: Description of specific qualifications and standards required of any party that CCP partners with.

Rate Setting & Costs: CCP must treat all customers equitably. Changes to default rates shall be publicly noticed at least 30 days in advance. Rates will be set such that revenues from participating customers will meet or exceed the costs of the program.

Financial Reserve Fund: A portion of revenues will be deposited in a financial reserve fund to ensure financial stability of CCP, maintain competitive rates despite price fluctuations, serve as collateral for contracts for renewable energy projects, and help finance new projects.

Description of Enrollment Process & Options. 30 days prior to launch, a mailing will be sent to all residents informing them of all their options. A public information meeting will be held within 15 days of the notification to answer program questions or provide clarification.

Electric Assistance Program Participants (those who qualify for assistance based on income) will continue to receive their discount.

Termination of CCP: No planned date for termination. Termination requires majority vote at Town Meeting.

Attachment 1: Description of the policies and governance structure of CPCNH.

Attachment 2: Explanation of Net Metering and what Community Power could offer to customer generators if the utilities share the required net metering export data.

Attachment 3: Load Serving Entities (LSE's): entities that can participate directly in the ISO New England wholesale electricity market on behalf of participating customers. All Community Power programs are required to register as Load Serving Entities.

Attachment 4: Customer Data Protection Plan. Describes policies to protect customer privacy.