

## CPNH Governance Summary for Community Power Summit Attendees

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Hanover was the first community in NH to become a Ready for 100 community in 2017. We immediately went to work to shift our community's electricity supply from brown sources to green. In addition to working on shift the municipal entity's electricity supply to solar from the purchase of Liberty's default brown power mix and working with the College to do the same, our consultant's from Three Degrees who worked with the Town on our overall energy plan recommended we look to launch a municipal aggregation as the Town of Hanover or seek to establish a regional aggregation to pursue the purchase of green power on behalf of our residential and commercial customers. Across the country, regional electricity aggregations are demonstrating that there is true strength in numbers as communities work together to pursue better electricity pricing and green power.

An amendment by the NH Legislature of RSA 53-E – led by Clifton Below of the City of Lebanon and Clean Energy NH and supported by several communities like Hanover – to allow opt out rather than opt-in participation in a municipally-organized electricity aggregation in 2019 made it possible to pursue municipal and county aggregation on a serious basis.

Both the City of Lebanon and Town of Hanover approached Clean Energy NH and staff member Henry Herndon with a request that we work together to form NH's first electricity aggregations based on the amended enabling statute.

- A Working Group of local officials committed to electricity aggregation from several cities and towns in NH and staffed by Henry Herndon of Clean Energy NH has been working on a launch plan for CPNH since fall of 2019.
- Community Power New Hampshire is designed as Joint Action Agency to provide enabling services to Municipal and County electricity aggregations enabled in both RSA 53-A (enabling agreements between governing units) and RSA 53-E (pertaining to aggregation of electricity customers by municipalities and counties).
- A Governance Committee has begun drafting by-laws that would govern the formation and oversight of the CPNH Aggregation.
  - Those by-laws have been drafted utilizing model documents governing both current successfully operating municipal electricity aggregations in California and New Hampshire and New England-based entities which act on behalf of multiple municipalities or states (e.g., NH Municipal Association and Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative).

- Key Issues addressed in the by-laws include: purpose for which aggregation is established; requirements for municipal and county membership; board of directors size, make-up, terms, and required skill sets for board service; board governance, etc.
  - By-laws are being reviewed by municipal attorneys to insure they are fully compliant with state law.
  - As per RSA 53-A, final by-laws will also need approval by Secretary of State's Office as with all inter-municipal agreements.
  
- RSA 53-E allows municipalities and counties to aggregate retail electric customers to “provide such customers access to competitive markets for supplies of electricity and related energy services. Aggregation may provide small customers with similar opportunities to those available to larger customers in obtaining lower electric costs, reliable service and secure energy supplies. The purpose of aggregation shall be to encourage voluntary, cost effective and innovative solutions to local needs with careful consideration of local conditions and opportunities.” Under this relatively broad tent, CPNH will strive to serve multiple municipal and county goals, to include:
  - Bulk purchase of electricity to lower electricity costs.
  - Enable communities to leverage electricity savings by investment in other municipal or county priorities.
  - Community purchase of 100% or fixed percentage green power rather than utility brown power mix.
  - Allow entities to benefit from innovative programs including real time pricing.
  
- CPNH proposes to launch in Fall 2020/Winter 2021. Initial members may be cities that have the ability to approve Energy Plans and formally launch aggregations via public hearing held by the City or Town Council; towns will be able to join following adoption of Energy Plans by Town-Meeting in spring of 2021 or later.