

Energy Aggregation Plan (EAP) Goals

Notes of discussion... what do we want Community Power to deliver?

Allison

- Competitive rates
- Fiscal stability through a reserve
- Customer focus... people need help and know how if they want to put in solar, lower energy use, etc. How to do battery storage, etc.

Becca

- Allison's list of goals, plus
- Energy choices: should phase out fossil fuels over time like state RPS standards... less and less a part of the mix
- Rate stability will be important
- Local renewable generation of electricity

Ben

- Push coalition to buy local pure green power and get the RECs too... guide Portfolio Manager to buy a bundle so we are buying the actual green power not just the RECs

Kevin

- Allison's list of goals plus
- Strong partnership with Eversource (Exeter has a goal of partnership with Util). Can't achieve smart metering, better interconnects, other grid benefits without them.
- Regional collaboration is really important – on green energy projects, on combined voice

Tom

- Allison's list
- Don't want to have too many goals as some towns do, which dilutes effectiveness

Ben

- "I'll put it right out there – cleaner local power. I want to buy green power."
- Education – need to inform customers of how and what to buy, how to understand energy markets. Will be job of Portsmouth Community Power
- (with Kevin) possible local reserve for building renewable projects – "a few mils" on our rate locally, or share of CPCNH reserve for same purpose

Kate

- Customers will come to us wanting rate relief as high prices hit. We need to provide that. Lower than default rates/rate stability
- Portsmouth also needs infrastructure like EV charging, other ways to electrify energy use

Peter S

- Push for CPCNH purchase agreements for offshore wind....Maine already has done this with their utility

Peter R

- These goals will change over time – a living list
- Greener power will cost more (if that is the default) and that needs to be communicated
- Reserve fund for building local renewable projects

Themes and emphases for our program goals

- Give consumers access to green power
- Competitive rates and rate stability – use structural advantage of CPCNH portfolio model to benefit residents. Build a strong reserve for rate stability
- Foster (through CPCNH or through our own reserve) local renewable generation projects
- Push CPCNH to purchase locally (i.e., NH and New England) generated renewable power rather than just RECs
- Portsmouth Community Power should help residential customers through education. (Also programs like storage/time shifting, smart meters in the home, etc?)
- Partnership with Eversource
- Regional collaboration remains an important goal for success
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Possible EAP goals section:

Policy background: Energy policy in Portsmouth has consistently embraced not only a rapid shift away from fossil fuel energy. The Natural Step framework adopted when the city became an Eco-Municipality specifically calls for a reduction in fossil fuel consumption as one of its four principles. The city also adopted a renewable energy policy in 2018 with a stated goal to be “net zero” in carbon emissions over time, beginning with municipal consumption and extending to communitywide consumption and transportation. The Renewable Energy Committee report supporting this policy recommended (#25) forming a local utility and/or (#26) a Community Aggregation program.

Renewable energy policy:

<https://files.cityofportsmouth.com/files/planning/renewableenergypolicy.pdf>

Committee report:

<https://files.cityofportsmouth.com/files/planning/RenewableEnergyCommitteeFinalReportandRecommendationswithAppendixC.pdf>

Portsmouth Community Power can accelerate the shift to renewable energy and develop innovative new programs to lower energy cost and carbon footprint. Hence they are a beneficial next step in the city’s path to Net Zero.

Goals of a local Aggregation Plan for Portsmouth Community Power (PCP)

Competitive rates – program should not launch unless it can deliver lower rates than the utility. There should be tiered options from “cheapest” to “greenest” and the standard default package should be competitive in price with utility, preferably with more green power in it. Enable easy opt out so consumers have full choice.

More green power/more resilient power – to both enable a more rapid shift away from fossil fuels, and to meet the demand from residents who want more renewable energy, PCP should have a system of tiered offerings including ones with 50% green power and 100% green power.

Portsmouth should also advocate with CPCNH to buy local (New Hampshire or New England) wind, hydro, solar to create these options, and advocate for buying this pure green power from the region as well as RECs. Also, collaborate with regional community power programs, municipalities, utilities and government agencies to jointly develop cost effective renewable energy generation and storage projects. PCP should support electric energy transit fleets and charging corridors, and enhance reliability of electric supply through development of community microgrids to support critical infrastructure

PCP should use all means (creation of reserve programs, purchase power agreements, etc.) to foster local renewable generation projects.

Rate stability: Portsmouth Community Power, through the Coalition, should buy a portfolio of short and long term contracts to offer more stable. The Coalition should maximize its structural advantage vs. utilities which must buy what is available on the market every six months, even when prices spike. PCP should also have a plan for rate stability by adopting an energy risk management program, which includes depositing a portion of revenues into a rate reserve fund.

Enhanced Customer Focus

- Educate consumers regarding how to reduce energy costs including installation of “smart meters” and control of when power is taken or supplied to the grid (time-varying rate structures)

- Reduce fossil fuel consumption by supporting electrification of appliances and vehicles
- Encourage local energy production and storage by supporting customer installation of clean energy technologies
- Attract and support local businesses through enhanced energy reliability and clean power initiatives

Consumer Protections and Public Advocacy

- Ensure the contracts entered into represent the interests of customers and the City of Portsmouth
- Represent the interests of customers before the legislature and the PUC and advocate for policies, regulation and infrastructure investments to achieve affordable, local and resilient energy systems

Strong partnership with Eversource Successful implementation of PCP will require a strong partnership with Eversource as the investor-owned transmission, delivery and billing entity. PCP should also work with Eversource on any and all ways to modernize the grid and develop innovative energy saving programs.