

## Energy Committee Information Sharing Event

Tuesday April 24, 2018

Time: 6:30

Location: Library Ramsdell Room

Title: Introducing Community Choice Energy (CCE)

### Agenda: **Learn About Community Choice Energy**

At Town Meeting, you will be asked to authorize the Board of Selectmen to join Northampton and Amherst to develop and approve a plan for an inter-municipal Community Choice Energy (CCE) organization. Please join us to learn how CCE can help our communities reduce greenhouse gases, improve energy efficiency, develop local renewable energy, and reduce energy costs. Hosted by the Pelham Energy Committee

### **About Community Choice Energy**

When Massachusetts deregulated and restructured its electricity industry in 1997, a provision of the law allowed any town or city to “aggregate the electrical load of interested electricity consumers within its boundaries” and “implement demand side management programs and renewable energy programs”. Municipal aggregation, or Community Choice Energy (CCE) as it is now called, represents an opportunity for Pelham to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, acquire more green renewable electricity, provide better energy efficiency services, develop local renewable energy resources, enhance community resilience, strengthen the local economy, and reduce energy costs over time.

The Board of Selectmen and the Energy Committee are asking the citizens of Pelham, through a Warrant Article, to support Community Choice Energy with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and reversing climate change. The warrant article authorizes the Board of Selectmen to join with other communities, currently Northampton and Amherst, to explore the potential of Community Choice Energy. For this purpose, an inter-municipal committee would be formed, with members appointed by each municipal government selectboard. Should this committee decide that joining other towns to manage our electric supply would be beneficial, the committee would develop a plan to form an inter-municipal Community Choice Energy organization. This plan would need to be approved by the Board of Selectmen with citizen review and then by the Department of Public Utilities. Only with these approvals may the Community Choice Energy organization begin operating.

The Community Choice Energy organization would only arrange electricity supply. The utility, Eversource for most Pelham residents, would continue to maintain the electricity grid, deliver electricity, and handle billing. Once operating, the Community Choice Energy organization will procure electricity on behalf of all residents who currently receive basic service from their utility. Any resident can choose to keep their utility as their electricity supplier. Residents who have already chosen another supplier can join the Community Choice Energy organization when their contract with their supplier expires.

After startup, the Community Choice Energy organization would be funded through the sale of electricity. Funds that currently go to the utility or other supplier stay within the community. Some of these funds pay to operate the Community Choice Energy organization, but surplus funds can be used to provide energy efficiency services and develop local renewable generating capacity. In addition, the Community Choice Energy organization can use energy efficiency funds collected from electricity ratepayers to fund its own energy efficiency programs.

More than 100 Massachusetts municipalities have formed municipal aggregations to provide electricity for their residents, but only one, Cape Light Compact, has developed the full potential of Community Choice Energy. Since 1998, Cape Light Compact has supplied its 21 member towns on Cape Cod and Martha’s Vineyard with renewable competitive electricity supply matched 100% with Renewable Energy Credits, provided energy efficiency services that have created \$635 million in lifetime consumer benefits, and developed 28.5 MW of local renewable energy generating capacity and offers grants for low-income solar energy ownership. We aspire to emulate and expand on these achievements in the Pioneer Valley.