

October 19, 2021

Via Email: dpu.efiling@mass.gov
Mark D. Marini, Secretary Department of Public Utilities
One South Station Boston, MA 02110

Re: Town of Andover Municipal Aggregation Plan; D.P.U. 21-77

Dear Secretary Marini,

I am writing to you as both a resident of Andover and as a member of Andover WECAN: Working to Educate for Climate Action Now to urge you to approve Andover's Municipal Aggregation Plan. This plan, now known as Andover Community Power, is the most significant step we as a municipality can take to reduce our carbon footprint. This plan will also help to align our community climate action plan with the goals of the Massachusetts Climate Action Law signed by Governor Baker in March of 2021 to cut greenhouse gas emissions, build a greener economy and prioritize equity and environmental justice. Andover Community Power will help us do just that!

Andover WECAN was formed as a community group in 2018 in response to the climate emergency. We are now a chapter affiliate of Massachusetts Climate Action Network (MCAN). <https://www.andoverwecan.org> Our mission, in addition to educating the community about climate change, is to work with our town government and residents to reduce our community and residential carbon footprint. We know from Andover's recent Greenhouse Gas Inventory, based on 2018 data, that residential and commercial buildings are by far the biggest source of CO2 emissions. Our goal is to help households and businesses transition away from fossil fuels as quickly as possible. To that end, we have been working to bring more renewable energy to Andover through municipal aggregation.

In early 2019, Andover WECAN approached our town leadership to propose that we follow in the footsteps of communities like Newton, Arlington, Brookline, and Lowell to adopt Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) in order to begin cleaning up our energy supply. The town was extremely receptive to our proposal. Andover hired Good Energy as our consultant and successfully brought this issue to Andover's Town Meeting for a vote in the spring of 2020. It passed by an overwhelming majority. The CCA program is now called Andover Community Power (ACP).

We are now at the next step of the process. We are urgently asking that the Department of Public Utilities give approval so that the Andover Community Power program can begin to bring a higher level of locally sourced renewable energy to our community.

Thank you,

Mary Pritchard on behalf of the members of Andover WECAN

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