



## **Town of Salem Community Choice Aggregation**

### **Program Plan Public Hearings**

**November 4, 2024**

**December 2, 2024**



## Purpose of Today's Public Hearing

- **Explain Salem's Community Choice Aggregation Program Plan ("Plan")**
  - Town Council voted to establish an Electric Aggregation Committee to create an aggregation program plan pursuant to NH RSA 53-E (Sep 9, 2024)
  - The Committee prepared a Plan in coordination with consultants Freedom Energy and Colonial Power Group
- Address questions from the public

## Procedural Steps

*(with tentative dates)*

- Town Council votes to approve final Plan (*Dec 2024*)
- Voters approve Plan at Town Meeting (*Mar 2025*)
- Plan filed with NH Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for review & approval (*Apr 2025*)
- PUC approves Plan (*Jun 2025*)
- Program launch (*3Q 2025, or later depending on market conditions*)



## What is Salem's Community Choice Aggregation Program?

- **Optional buying group for electricity** - The town will contract for electricity supply for all interested residential and business consumers currently receiving default service from Liberty Utilities ("Eligible Consumers")
- **Opt-Out Program** - Eligible Consumers are automatically enrolled in the Program, unless they opt-out
- **Will not interfere with individual choice** - Consumers currently under contract directly with third-party suppliers will not be automatically enrolled in the program but may elect to opt-in
- **Self-contained**
  - No cost to town – all administrative costs included in program rates
  - No costs imposed on non-participating consumers



## Benefits of Community Choice Aggregation

### ➤ Pricing advantages over Liberty default service procurement:

- Liberty buys on a 6-month schedule in June and Dec regardless of market (PUC-directed)
- Salem Program will be strategic, seeking to buy at market low points

### Forward Electricity Prices *(illustrative only)*

-- Liberty Utilities buys every June and Dec





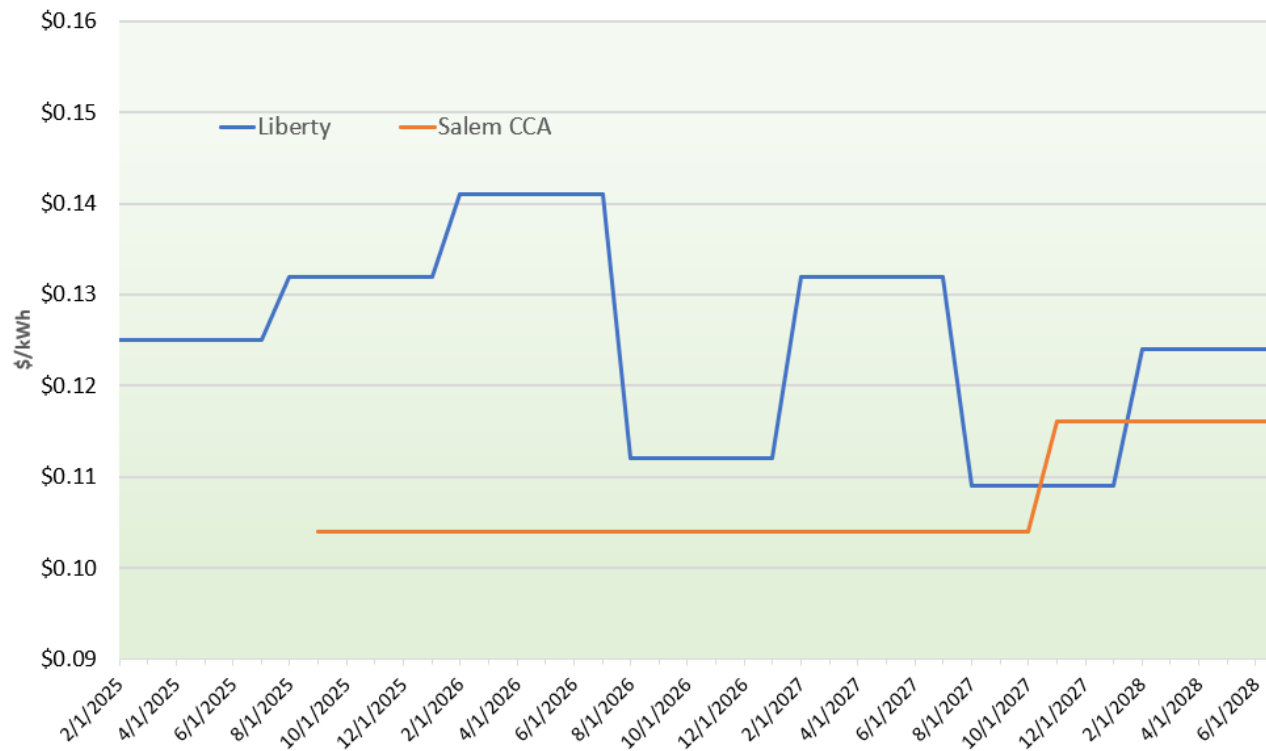
## Benefits of Community Choice Aggregation

### ➤ Price Stability and Savings:

- Ability to secure longer-term rates --- avoid market price volatility
- Objective is to deliver savings over the term of each supply contract
- However, there may be periods when the Program rate is higher than default service

### Hypothetical Price Comparison

Salem CCA vs. Liberty Default Service (residential rate)





## Benefits of Community Choice Aggregation

### > Choice and Optionality:

- No longer “stuck” with utility default rates
- Valuable alternative to third-party supply
- Opt-out of the Program without penalty, prior to launch or after launch
- Opt into the Program after launch, without fee
- Program will offer two or more product options

	<b>Salem CCA Program</b> <i>(products and prices are illustrative only**)</i>		
Program Product	STANDARD (default)	OPTIONAL GREEN 50	OPTIONAL GREEN 100
Program Prices	\$0.09425 per kWh	\$0.10798 per kWh	\$0.12918 per kWh
Renewable Energy Content	Meets minimum state mandates	Meets RPS +33% NH Class I RECs	100% NH Class I RECs

\*\* Program prices and product selection will not be known until after Salem makes an award as part of RFP process



## Continuing Roles of Liberty Utilities

### > Electricity Service

- Utilities continue to maintain electric service to your home or business
- Power outage? Start/stop service? Contact your utility

### > Billing

- Continue to receive a single bill from your utility
- A single line-item change replacing utility default service with Program supply
- Billing question? Contact your utility

### > Utility Services Unaffected

- budget billing, electronic payment, payment arrangements, energy assistance, energy efficiency programs



## Net Metered Consumers

### > No automatic enrollment

- Net metered consumers may participate in the Program on an **opt-in basis**

### > First principle: do no harm

- CCA Programs are currently unable to provide credits to consumers when their solar generation exceeds their electricity consumption

### > Optimism for the future

- Active discussions underway amongst regulators, utilities, and aggregation advocates to try to facilitate participation for net metered consumers (work-in-progress)





## Program Launch and Implementation

- **RFP for program supply** – town issues RFP and signs contract with electricity supplier based on competitive bid process
  - Program will only commence when it can offer initial rates below utility rates
- **Opt-out Notices** - mailed to all Eligible Consumers at least 30 days prior to program launch
- **Public information session** - ~15 days prior to launch
- **Program enrollment** - Consumers that have not opted-out

## Staying Informed

- **Dedicated Program website:**
  - Program details and reference material
  - Opt-in or Opt-out; change product selection
  - Customer service number
- **Town website and social media**



**Questions?**