

**Newport City Council**  
**43 Broadway**  
**Newport, RI 02840**  
**May 14, 2020**



Dear Councilors,

As members of the Newport Energy & Environment Commission, we are committed to advising the council on actions that promote renewable energy, energy efficiency and enhanced sustainability for our community. Please accept this letter as a formal appeal for the exploration and consideration of community choice aggregation programming (CCA) as a measure to enhance renewable energy consumption in Newport.

CCA programs allow local authorities to procure cheaper electricity supply rates and a higher percentage of renewable energy than required by state law for residents and businesses while maintaining transmission and distribution services from existing providers like National Grid.

Enhanced oversight of our electricity supply and the associated costs can directly benefit the environmental and economic resilience of our community. Rhode Island is currently one of seven states in the nation where specific legislation has been enacted to support the authorization and development of CCA programs. In 2019, four Rhode Island cities and towns (Central Falls, Providence, South Kingstown and Barrington) passed resolutions that prompted the consideration and development of CCA programs. It is expected that ten or more additional communities will explore the replication of resolutions in 2020 and beyond.

Since the Summer of 2019, the Newport Energy & Environment Commission and the Aquidneck Island Planning Commission have worked alongside the Green Energy Consumers Alliance to better understand the potential translation of these statewide CCA efforts here in Newport. Green Energy Consumers has provided innumerable resources to our Commission and the broader public that have helped build awareness of CCA, while simultaneously highlighting the steps necessary to develop a strategy for program implementation. In addition, members of the Aquidneck Island Climate Caucus have expressed support for CCA as a strong climate action step, including Rep. Deborah Ruggiero (D-Dist. 74, Jamestown, Middletown) who championed legislation that now enables cities and towns to explore and implement CCA programs. We would like to encourage you to take the necessary steps toward the passage of a resolution that evaluates CCA program potential in Newport. The Commission is standing by to provide relevant developmental resources and to support the solicitation of feedback from the public in relation to this topic.

Thank you for your consideration,

**Lola Herrera-Ximenez, Evan Ridley, Terry Mason, Ellen Nichols & Sean O'Conner**