

From: Betsy Ware, Director of Community Development  
Date: December 7, 2015  
Subject: Municipal Aggregation program

Within the next few weeks there may be a number of telephone calls and inquiries relative to the municipal aggregation program. These inquiries will be triggered by an “opt out” letter, which Con Edison Solutions is putting in the mail this week. This letter, generated from New York, may confuse residents who are not aware of this bulk electricity buying program that the town of Dracut has entered into with other communities. In other communities, who are a part of the municipal aggregation program, residents have thought that this letter was a hoax, which it is not. Therefore, I am outlining the salient points of this program below, for placement on the website and should anyone contact your office regarding the program. Also, Jim Duggan and Philip Carr of Good Energy, the town’s consultant on this project, have completed a video on the municipal aggregation program that Dracut Cable Access is running four times a week. The video is very helpful to understanding the program, whose goal is to save money for residents of the Town of Dracut. As always, you can refer any resident to me to talk about the program.

1. The Town of Dracut has entered into a municipal aggregation program with 22 other communities in order to buy electricity at a bulk rate. The bulk rate per kilowatt hour is 9.49 cents. This rate is dramatically cheaper than buying from National Grid or other third party providers, who have charged up to 15.5 cents per kilowatt hour (KWH);
2. Residents are automatically enrolled in the municipal aggregation program; however if a resident wants to “opt out” of the program for whatever reason, they can do so by signing the “opt out” card that is being sent out this week in a mailing from Con Edison Solutions, who is the electrical supplier under the municipal aggregation program;
3. Some confusion may arise from the letter being sent from Con Edison Solutions as it is being sent from ConEd Solutions headquarters in New York and has been viewed as “a hoax” in other municipal aggregation communities. The Con Edison letter is not a hoax and residents are advised to do nothing in order to save on electricity for the upcoming two years;
4. It is anticipated that the municipal aggregation program will save an average household about \$125-150/ annually, with the bulk of the savings during the winter months;
5. The municipal aggregation program will start in January 2016 (with the meter reading) and the new rates will show up on the February 2016 billing. There will be no changes in the billing. The billing will be from National Grid (the distributor) however there will be a note on the invoice which states that Con Edison Solutions (the supplier) is providing the electricity under the municipal aggregation program at a rate of 9.5 cents per KWH;

6. There may be some special conditions that residents might be concerned about. These instances might include:
  - a. If a household has more than one meter and the homeowner wants to “opt out” on only one meter, the resident should specify on the “opt out” letter, which meter/account the resident wishes to “opt out” on (and also call Con Edison Solutions regarding this situation);
  - b. If the resident has a lease for roof-mounted solar photovoltaics panels, this will not impact the installation or agreement with the company. If the household needs more electricity, the household can buy CHEAPER electricity from the municipal aggregation program, as needed;
  - c. If the property has a windmill, and the household needs more electricity, the household can buy CHEAPER electricity from the municipal aggregation program, as needed;
  - d. If the household consists of elderly residents on assistance, this program will not impact the fuel assistance being received by the household;
  - e. If the household has a third-party agreement with another distributor (other than National Grid), there may be pre-payment penalties for leaving the third party agreement to join the municipal aggregation program. Check the contract to determine if it’s financially beneficial to leave the third party program. If not, the household can finish out the third party contract and join the municipal aggregation program by calling National Grid or Con Edison Solutions to get the 9.49 cents per KWH rate;
7. Massachusetts is one of six states that allows by legislation municipal aggregation programs. The program that Dracut is a part of includes 23 communities, who have joined together to buy electricity at a bulk rate. This bulk rate is locked in for two years and it is anticipated that 18 months from now, the aggregation will re-bid the contract for electricity so that residents may continue to enjoy lower electricity rates on a continued basis.
8. The town has worked to provide information, in the form of pamphlets, website information and Dracut Access TV videos, on this program and encourages residents to review this information. Residents may also find additional information by calling 844-627-7232 (Mass Community Electricity Aggregation) or checking their website at [www.masscea.com](http://www.masscea.com). If you have any further questions about the program, please contact Betsy Ware, Director of Community Development at 978-453-4557.