

# Old Colony Planning Council



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## **COLONIAL POWER GROUP SELECTED AS AGGREGATION CONSULTANT BY OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL**

BROCKTON, MA – The Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC) has announced the selection of Colonial Power Group of Marlborough, Massachusetts as its chosen consultant and broker to assist its 17 member communities in moving forward to implement locally controlled municipal programs for the aggregation of electricity.

Municipal electric aggregation was enabled by the 1997 Massachusetts Utility Deregulation Act in order to put more competition into the marketplace. To date, approximately 80 communities have taken the necessary steps to operate aggregation services for the benefit of its residents and small businesses. With municipal aggregation, cities and towns enter into the competitive marketplace of electric service to secure the availability of more stable and generally lower cost rates for those residential and business electricity consumers that utilize the utility company's default basic service program.

Municipal aggregation has multiple benefits for local residents by providing a consumer-oriented program of choice that is locally controlled and professionally managed to maximize cost savings and price stability. Cities and towns can use aggregation to enhance economic development and leverage an increase in the development of renewable energy and local energy management.

“We are excited by the myriad of opportunities that aggregation opens up to our member communities,” said OCPC Executive Director Pat Ciaramella. “It’s great to be able to help our communities help their residents and small business owners in bringing electricity costs under control.”

Colonial Power Group has been in the municipal aggregation business since 2002 and currently serves 42 municipalities in Massachusetts.

“Municipal aggregation is what we do,” said Mark Cappadona, President of Colonial Power Group, Inc. “It’s a program that we believe in because it gives a city or a town a tool to help its residents get price stability and cost savings. We also are proud of what we’ve been able to implement in addressing other public policy goals related to energy and the environment. We are very excited to be working for and with Old Colony Planning Council, one of the premier regional planning agencies in the state.”

Colonial Power Group currently serves nearly fifty Massachusetts municipalities making it the leader in community choice municipal aggregation within the state.

“We serve some of the smallest towns of the state as well as the fourth largest, the City of Lowell,” said Cappadona, “and we customize our product to the goals of each community we serve, regardless of its size.”

“We were pleased to choose Colonial Power as our selected consultant after a competitive process,” said Eric Arbeene, AICP, Senior Community Planner at OCPC, and the lead staff member on this project. “They bring extensive knowledge of the energy market, a focus of customizing programs for each community based upon the identified needs of each municipality, consulting partners that know and understand municipal government and community education, experience using aggregation to achieve local energy initiatives, and a history of success and results.”

A number of Old Colony communities have already adopted the statutory language to become a municipal aggregator. Other communities will be taking up the matter at Town Meetings this spring. The second part of the process will be the adoption of local aggregation plans before regulatory filings are made with the state Department of Energy Resources and the Department of Public Utilities. It is expected that municipalities taking each one of these steps and receiving the required approvals will be securing lower and more stable electric rates by next winter.

Ciaramella is excited to see the program moving forward.

“We expect that this aggregation program has the opportunity to save the residents of our communities millions of dollars, and that’s money that can go back into the local economy,” he said. “This is the type of project that keeps on giving.”