

NEW HAVEN ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Laura Cahn, Chair --- Kevin McCarthy, Vice Chair --- Kathleen Fay, Secretary
Sal DeCola, Board of Alder Representative
Henry Auer, Kristyn Gorton, Iris Kaminski, Florestine Taylor

September 4, 2019

**The Honorable Tyisha Walker-Myers, President
New Haven Board of Alders
City Hall
165 Church Street
New Haven, Connecticut 06510**

Re: Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) Resolution

Madam President:

Attached please find a resolution and addendum passed by the Environmental Advisory Council urging the Connecticut General Assembly to enact enabling legislation for Community Choice Aggregation (CCA).

CCA is a system whereby an agency overseen by a municipality or group of municipalities purchases energy in bulk for everyone in the community. Community members, including businesses as well as individual households, would retain their right to opt out and purchase their energy elsewhere.

CCA is already policy in seven U.S. states. CCA is a municipally vetted, non-profit bulk-purchasing option that has shown to deliver lower energy bills and greener power.

CCA would provide the City of New Haven the means to uphold our commitment to social equity, squarely counteract climate change, and lead an accelerated and scaled path to a responsible energy transition by acting as stewards of our own community-wide energy planning and investment.

The City of New Haven's Climate and Sustainability Framework already calls for advocating to the State to authorize CCA, and adopting this resolution would be a clear step forward in that process.

We encourage the Board of Alders to pass this resolution and send it to the General Assembly.

Please contact Kathy Fay at 203/815-5618 with any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

The New Haven Environmental Advisory Council

ATTACHMENTS: Resolution and addendum and supporting materials

**Resolution of the New Haven Board of Alders
urging the Connecticut General Assembly and Governor Lamont to enact a
Community Choice Aggregation Law For Connecticut**

Whereas Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) establishes new ways for communities to achieve significant greenhouse gas reductions without increasing energy costs, and provides increased opportunities for residents, businesses and municipalities to invest in local and onsite renewables, energy efficiency and energy storage measures, and more generally, to effectuate energy democracy and sustainable economic development for their residents and businesses;

Whereas CCA is the system whereby a municipality - or group of municipalities - purchases bulk electricity from an electric supplier on behalf of all residential and commercial consumers within the aggregation and the existing electric distribution company continues to provide transmission and distribution services;

Whereas low income residents have often been excluded from participation in home solar photovoltaics, energy efficiency programs, and other new forms of customer equity, and elsewhere CCA has been used as a platform for the inclusion of medium-, low-, and fixed income residents in Community Shared Solar programs, home/business onsite renewable power, onsite energy storage, electric-vehicle charging, appliance automation and microgrids;

Whereas pooling people together geographically will increase purchasing power of consumers currently neglected or harmed by suppliers and private aggregators, leveraging their purchasing power and control over terms of service such as carbon emissions and contract oversight to better ensure contractor compliance, potentially resulting in lower bills, facilitating customer equity and local economic development;

Whereas CCA programs have demonstrated environmental and consumer benefits in over 1500 municipalities across seven states: New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey, California, Ohio, and Illinois, where CCA is highly regarded for delivering both lower and more stable bills and greener power than either the individual choice market suppliers or conventional utility programs, setting green power and greenhouse gas reduction records, and facilitating significant investment in local and regional renewable energy projects;

Whereas the proposed legislation would have no significant negative fiscal impacts on Connecticut or the City of New Haven, and could provide for new revenue streams for municipal activities fostering local and regional economic development in the energy sector;

Whereas The City of New Haven's Climate and Sustainability Framework's electric power goal #4, action #8 states, "advocate to the State to authorize CCA to create a purchasing entity (by municipality or others) that sources primarily renewable energy;

Therefore, be it resolved that New Haven Board of Alders urges the Connecticut General Assembly to enact a CCA law for Connecticut;

And be it further resolved that the proposed legislation empower Connecticut municipalities to procure power, to develop local energy resources, and to engage customers not merely as consumers, but investors; and authorize a town or city to implement a CCA entity, either alone or in concert with one or more contiguous municipalities through an inter-municipal agreement, to procure energy supply services, promote energy efficiency measures and develop local renewable energy facilities to serve residents, businesses and municipal utility customers within their jurisdictional boundaries;

And be it further resolved that the Connecticut General Assembly's enabling legislation include language such as that in the attached addendum, which gives the CCA the tools to be successful;

Therefore, it is resolved that the New Haven Board of Alders shall convey this adopted resolution to the Connecticut General Assembly, Governor Lamont and the New Haven state delegation, urging them to support a CCA law in Connecticut.

Approved this day of ____
Signed by the Clerk ____
Date of Signature ____

***Addendum to the Resolution of the New Haven Board of Alders
urging the Connecticut General Assembly and Governor Lamont to enact a
Community Choice Aggregation Law For Connecticut***

The CCA legislation will provide for the Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) energy program administrators to request detailed customer usage, billing information, and related customer data and data from meters in their jurisdictions, for the design of power procurement and localization plans, and would require the distribution utilities to supply raw data in USB drive format no cost in a timely manner. The proposed legislation will authorize the Community Choice Aggregator (Aggregator) to administer all energy efficiency funds paid by customers located within their jurisdictional boundaries, for purposes of funding the local energy efficiency program component of the community's new service.

The CCA legislation will authorize the Aggregator to advertise for the request for bids from electric and/or gas suppliers for the provision of services for the program, including price benchmarks.

The CCA shall maintain a website for participating customers to view the monthly rates charged, their account histories, and to view and subscribe to optional energy efficiency and renewable energy services and products being offered.

The CCA legislation will authorize Aggregators to select the electricity and/or gas suppliers ("Supplier") that will offer the best services, or may elect to reject all bids and re-advertise. The proposed legislation will authorize the Aggregator to enter into a contract with the chosen supplier or suppliers, and outlines the requirements of such contracts.

The CCA legislation will provide for the Aggregator to obtain from the electric and or gas distribution utility the list of customers affected by the contract with the Supplier, and to provide notice to those customers.

The CCA legislation will accordingly require the electric and gas utilities to enter into a data-sharing and customer bill access protocol with the CCAs, with notices including instructions for automatic enrollment of customers, and to reserve one half utility bill page for printing CCA-provided customer charges, surcharges and customer communications.

The effective date of the proposed legislation is immediate.

Quote from the [Testimony during the Climate Emergency Resolution of the City Engineer](#), Giovanni Zinn. [CSEP member Winter asked] "You (Zinn) mentioned some things being handled outside of city government and advocacy at the state level...What, if you could name a couple constraints, at the state level would you change that citizens could focus on or the Board could write a resolution about? [Zinn] "I think there's a lot around energy. In particular **Community Aggregation**, **Community Solar**, the whole issue with net metering and uncertainty around that."

CT Policy Trend notes from [NREL report](#), on page 55 of 56:

Policy Trends in Other Prospective CCA States

In Section 4.4, we project the potential impacts of CCAs on voluntary green power demand, assuming four additional states pass CCA-enabling legislation: Connecticut, Nevada, New Hampshire, and Oregon. None of these states has taken concrete legislative steps to enable CCAs, to our knowledge; however, their electricity market structures and recent related legislative activity suggest that CCAs could form part of future state policymaking.

Connecticut is a restructured market state, where legislation has been introduced to allow government entities to aggregate their own demand in the past legislative session (S.B. 334, 2018).²⁶ In addition, the state has higher-than-average electricity prices for its region, below-average customer satisfaction with the primary investor-owned utility (J.D. Power 2017), and high interest in renewables, given the sweeping increase in renewable production standard passed in 2018 (Public Act 18-50).²⁷