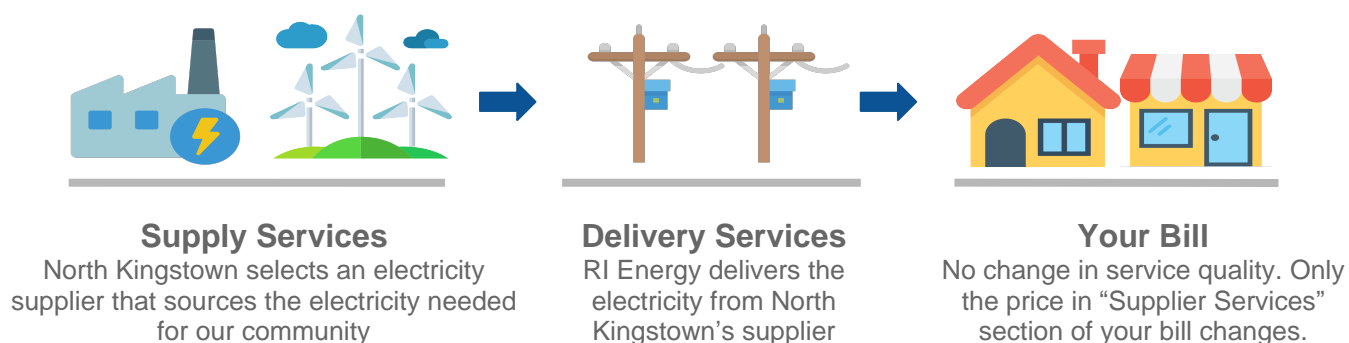




# North Kingstown Community Electricity

## Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. What is Community Electricity?** Community electricity, also known as municipal aggregation, is a program whereby a municipality creates a new default electricity supply available to all residents and businesses. The Town can also create other optional electricity supply options.
- 2. Why is North Kingstown pursuing this program?** Community electricity will empower the municipality to offer new electricity options that meet the diverse needs of our residents and businesses. Although the programs cannot guarantee financial savings, these programs may provide competitively priced and stable electricity costs, as well as cleaner electricity with more renewable energy.
- 3. Do many other communities offer this?** Yes, seven towns/cities in Rhode Island offer similar programs. South Kingstown, Narragansett, Providence, Newport, Central Falls, Portsmouth, and Barrington have active community electricity programs.
- 4. Will North Kingstown replace the utility, RI Energy?** No. Our utility, RI Energy, will continue to own and manage all delivery services: distribution poles and wires, emergency services and billing. RI Energy will continue to respond to outages and provide customer services. RI Energy will deliver the power supply that North Kingstown offers via the Community Electricity program.



- 5. Will I get a second bill?** No. RI Energy will still send you only one electricity bill. On that bill, only the supply services section will change, to reflect the price for electricity from North Kingstown's program.
- 6. Does the program affect service from RI Energy or their profit?** No. RI Energy cannot change the quality of their delivery service based on your choice of supplier. RI Energy's profit comes from the delivery services they provide, and this program only affects the supply service portion of the bill.
- 7. Does the program affect low-income electricity discounts or budget billing?** No. Utility programs for electric assistance and budget billing are not affected by community electricity.
- 8. Does the program affect net metering or other solar benefits?** No. Benefits and compensation for solar programs, including net metering, are not affected by community electricity.

- 9. Is the program structured as opt-out?** Yes. The state law that enables Community Electricity ([RI Gen L § 39-3-1.2 \(2019\)](#)) sets up the program as an opt-out, and this provides the buying power and load certainty to attract bids from qualified electricity suppliers.
- 10. Who does the opt-out apply to?** Anyone using RI Energy for electricity supply, called Last Resort Service, will be eligible for automatic enrollment. If you check the “supply services” section of your bill and you see that “SUPPLIER” says “Rhode Island Energy”, then you would be eligible for automatic enrollment. Most residential customers will be eligible for automatic enrollment.

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|--|--|-------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Right To Dispute Your Bill<br/>And To An Impartial Hearing</b><br><br>If you believe your bill is inaccurate or for any reason payment may be withheld, you should first contact our Customer Service Department at 1-855-RIE-1101. If a mutually | <b>Supply Services</b><br>SUPPLIER Rhode Island Energy |                   |                 |
|  | Energy Charge  | 0.10882 x 105 kWh | 11.43           |
|  | <b>Total Supply Services</b>                           |                   | <b>\$ 11.43</b> |

- 11. How does the opt-out work?** At least 30 days before the program launches, all eligible customers will receive a letter notifying them that they are eligible for automatic enrollment in the upcoming program. The letter will explain the program, the pricing and provide instructions for how to opt-out and not participate (including via postage-paid mailer, phone or online form).
- 12. What if I've already chosen my own non-utility electricity supplier?** Anyone that has already chosen their own electricity supplier will not be eligible for automatic enrollment in the program. Such customers may choose to join the program if they wish.
- 13. Do I have to participate?** No. The choice to participate will be voluntary: any resident or business may choose to opt-out (not participate) before the program starts and you can leave the program at any time, without penalty. If you opt-out, you can stay with RI Energy electricity supply or choose your own supplier from the marketplace.
- 14. What supply products does the town plan to offer?** In the plan, "North Kingstown Standard" will be the default electricity supply, with a goal of being cleaner than the utility supply while still being cost-competitive (recognizing that savings cannot be guaranteed). The program will also have a 100% renewable electricity option called "North Kingstown 100" and an option with the minimum renewable energy required by the State, called "North Kingstown Basic".
- 15. What steps have been taken so far?** In November 2022, the Town Council passed a resolution authorizing the Town Manager to research and develop a plan for a community electricity program. In May, the Town Council voted to release the draft plan for North Kingstown community electricity for over a month of public review and comment.
- 16. What comes next?** On June 24, 2024, the Town Council will hold a public hearing at the conclusion of the public review. After the public hearing, the next step is for the town to submit the plan to the RI Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for review. Only after PUC approval may the town launch the program.
- 17. When does the program start?** The town hopes to start the program near the end of 2024, however the exact timing will depend upon the PUC review process.