



TOWN OF ITHACA NEW YORK

Date: 07/06/2022

To: Town Board

From: Nick Goldsmith, Sustainability Planner

Regarding: Local Law to Enable Community Choice Aggregation

The Town of Ithaca has considered the possibility of starting a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program for several years. Most recently, a Town committee has been collaborating with the City of Ithaca, CCA innovator Local Power, and Sustainable Tompkins to draft legislation that would enable a local CCA program. The Planning Committee has reviewed and discussed the CCA Local Law more than once, and at its June 16, 2022 meeting, the Committee moved the legislation on to the Town Board for consideration, factoring in review by Susan Brock.

The CCA Law would enable an innovative program designed to be an efficient and affordable way to engage the entire local population in achieving time-critical local and state goals for decarbonization and equity. Once the program is developed by the City and Town of Ithaca, other municipalities in Tompkins County and the region will be offered participation.

The proposed CCA program is the next-gen evolution of programs that are already providing proven results to millions of customers in New York, California, Ohio, Illinois, and New Jersey. The CCA program will meet or beat electric and gas supply rates for basic service but use a higher percentage of renewable energy at inception. It will also partner with each municipality to offer their residents and businesses the opportunity to access low-interest financing to invest in new distributed energy resources such as solar arrays, microgrids, or building efficiency and electrification upgrades.

The Town will consider the local development and customer ownership options at a later date, while participating in all other CCA initiatives at launch. Any municipality joining this CCA could follow a similar two-step process of receiving grid power first, before deciding on the development of locally-sited energy projects.

The New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) must approve an Implementation Plan before the CCA can begin operations. The Implementation Plan will be prepared in the fall by a competitively selected CCA Administrator and approved by the Town before it is submitted to the PSC for approval. The Implementation Plan will provide additional details of the CCA program, such as plans for value-added services, DER Voluntary Investment options, and a public outreach plan.

We look forward to discussion on this issue and hope to consider the local law for adoption at the August Town Board meeting. Please let us know if you have any questions or comments.