



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Albany, Schenectady, Troy Explore CCA Electricity Buying Program for Residents

CCA can offer residents access to 100% renewable energy, competitive electricity rates, stable prices, and consumer protections

Albany, Schenectady, and Troy are the latest communities to join a growing group of municipalities exploring Community Choice Aggregation (CCA), a new bulk electricity-buying program for residents and small businesses.

While CCA is new to New York State, it has been underway in several other states, including Massachusetts, Illinois, and California. The program localizes energy decision-making and creates more choice for consumers. Through bulk purchasing and competition, CCA can offer better electric rates and price stability for residents and small businesses. It also provides access to 100% renewable electricity and helps combat the predatory practices of energy telemarketers and door-to-door sales.

In addition to the tri-cities, the Cities of Glens Falls, Saratoga Springs, and Watervliet, the Towns of Bethlehem, Guilderland, Knox, New Scotland and Niskayuna, and the Villages of Voorheesville, Altamont, and Kinderhook are also seeking to offer their residents and small businesses additional electricity choices by participating in CCA.

Municipalities are able to customize their CCA program based on their values and priorities, such as choosing a 100% renewable, 'green' electricity supply.

"We are excited to explore the possibility of taking part in this new program alongside so many Capital Region municipalities," said Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan. "Community Choice Aggregation is an opportunity to offer our residents access to competitive energy pricing and renewable energy – two things that we know to be important to Albany's residents and small businesses."

Residents and small business owners can learn more about the CCA program online (www.megacca.org) and/or through a series of upcoming public education sessions. Education sessions are open to residents in all municipalities and residents are encouraged to bring their questions and electricity bills.

CCA is an opt-out program, which means all eligible customers are automatically included unless they choose not to participate. There is never a fee or penalty for opting out or opting back in. Residents will not be automatically included if they already purchase their electricity supply from a company other than National Grid or if they have a block on their account.

"As a city built on a legacy of electricity innovation, we're eager to explore the CCA program and work to bring the best energy choices to the Electric City," said Schenectady Mayor Gary McCarthy. "By joining forces with 13 other communities in the region, we are able to offer our city residents and businesses access to bulk electricity pricing and more options when it comes to renewable energy."

The municipalities listed above have chosen the Municipal Electric and Gas Alliance (MEGA) as their CCA Administrator. In partnership with the communities, MEGA will oversee the creation, development, and implementation of the program, and perform education and outreach to residents. No taxpayer or government funds will be used in the creation or operation of the program.



“Community Choice Aggregation has seen great success in other areas, and we are proud to be among the pioneers of this program in the Capital Region,” said Troy Mayor Patrick Madden. “At this point in the process, we are focused on educating our residents about their energy choices and exploring whether CCA is the right fit for our city.”

A series of short educational videos on Community Choice Aggregation can be found on YouTube by searching “MEGA CCA.”

A full list of upcoming educational sessions throughout the area can be found at www.megacca.org.

MEGA is a not-for-profit local development corporation with two decades of experience serving the energy needs of around 300 municipalities and other businesses across upstate New York. MEGA currently has an operational CCA Program of 21 municipalities in the Southern Tier.

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Find out more about the program at www.MEGAcca.org or on Facebook and Twitter @MEGAEnergyNY.
