

## THE PROBLEM

Connecticut towns and cities could play a much greater role in meeting our state's climate goals and modernizing the grid, but Connecticut law stands in the way. **Community Power (also known as Community Choice Aggregation/CCA)** would allow municipalities to choose their electricity providers, allowing them to purchase from cleaner, cheaper sources than the utility. Power continues to be delivered through the utility, and any ratepayer is free to opt-out.

We are also moving too slowly in the adoption of distributed energy resources (DER), which includes small scale solar and battery storage, as well as energy efficiency and demand response (that can reduce and shift peak demand). DER can help lower costs, reduce emissions, and increase resilience. Utilities need to continue to own and operate the distribution system, but they do not need to continue having monopoly control of procurement, rate design, 'Smart meters', and the adoption of DER. The problem is that in our emerging decentralized grid, utilities are continuing to play the same roles as they did through much of the 20th century. A decentralized grid requires more decentralized decision-making.

## A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION

If Connecticut allows municipalities to form Community Power Agencies (CPA), they could begin playing their role in decarbonizing not just the energy sector, but in developing programs aimed at reducing emissions from buildings and transportation, as is happening in other states. A municipality forms a CPA through a lengthy, open and public process that culminates in a vote by the local legislative body. Community Power requires no additional state or municipal funds. Rather, a CPA is funded through some combination of its procurement revenue stream, program administration, grants, and loans.

## ENSURING EQUITY IN CCA

Community Power Agencies, by their local control and focus, can better develop priorities and programs for low income and minority populations. Hastening the development of DER will increase local jobs and lower air pollution from the building and transportation sectors.



## FAST FACTS

- ◆ **All of our neighboring states allow for CCA**, including Massachusetts, New York, and Rhode Island. California, Illinois, New Jersey, Ohio Virginia and most recently New Hampshire also allow for CCA.
- ◆ In other states, Community Power **electric rates typically meet or beat utility rates.**

## MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about Community Choice Aggregation, contact:

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