



**CITY OF PORTSMOUTH NH  
Portsmouth Energy Advisory Committee**

**Wednesday, January 7, 2026, 6:30 pm**

**City Hall Conference Room A**

Members of the public may participate via Zoom. To register, go to:  
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**AGENDA**

1. Call to order, roll call
2. Chairman's Remarks
3. Approval of Minutes from December 3, 2025
4. CPCNH rate announcement for February 1 – June 30, 2026
5. Draft Portsmouth Community Power press release and communications plan
6. Public Comment



**CITY OF PORTSMOUTH NH  
Portsmouth Energy Advisory Committee**

**Wednesday, December 3, 2025, 6:30 pm**

**MINUTES**

For the video recording of the meeting on Zoom:

<https://youtu.be/xHNuAYfnwgA>

**1. Roll call**

Meeting called to order at 6:36 pm. Attending, Councilor Tabor, chair; Peter Somssich, Tom Rooney, Councilor Kate Cook, Tracy Cameron, Betsy Blaisdell. Via Zoom: Jillian Harris. Excused: Kevin Charette, Ben D'Antonio, Sustainability Committee: Fred Calcinari. Staff: DPW Director Peter Rice, DPW project manager Christine Sproviero, Stephanie Seacord.

2. **Chairman's remarks** – Chair Tabor reported that the City Council will hold Second reading (and possibly Third) at their December 8, 2025 meeting of the ordinance to make PEAC a permanent committee. He thanked the committee members for their work and expressed the hope that they will all continue to serve (or to let him know). Later, Councilor Cook expressed her thanks for the committee's work and level of expertise which the City otherwise could not afford – and reported that this would be her last PEAC meeting.
3. **Approval of minutes.** On a motion by Peter Somssich seconded by Betsy Blaisdell, the committee voted to approve both the October 1 and November 5, 2025 minutes.

**4. Update on Jones Avenue Solar Project**

DPW Director Peter Rice introduced the DPW project manager Christine Sproviero. She reported that the City received quotes from five vendors to produce a feasibility study for a Jones Avenue solar array project and hired APEX based on their qualifications and price. Their preliminary review suggests a system of up to 2.45 megawatts generating 3 gigawatts of electricity per year. This system would cost approximately \$4 million, with a payback of 10 years under a bond/own scenario. This system would connect to the Jones Avenue three-phase power line which currently appears to have a hosting capacity of 3-5 megawatts. The alternative 'behind the meter' option connecting to the solar array at Portsmouth High School would require 2,000 feet of conductor (twice what's needed to connect to Jones Ave.). This option would be credited by Eversource at a lower rate than direct-connection to the grid through Jones Avenue and APEX continues to assess whether the high school option makes sense. The City of Portsmouth would receive a net metering discount on the municipal utility bill on either but at different rates.

APEX is also evaluating and will report on a comparison of bond-to-own, power purchase agreement, land lease, net metering and hybrid or community solar approaches.

Federal tax incentives that are derived from the Inflation Reduction Act are unlikely to apply to this project as to qualify the system must be in service by December 31, 2027 or construction must have started within 12 months of the Big Beautiful Tax Bill signing on July 4, 2025. The interconnection review from Eversource is anticipated to take 16-24 months (included in APEX scope).

Further action as APEX works to finalize report by March 2026 (Councilor Cook noted that the Council has til May to adjust the CIP for the FY27 budget if adjustment is needed to the current CIP 'bond-to-own' expense).

- Assessment of the Jones Ave. landfill weight bearing capacity (geotech analysis), permit review
- Battery storage including costs
- Adding additional capacity at Portsmouth High School in addition to direct-connection to Jones Avenue line
- Consider a microgrid for City facilities (Tom Rooney has expertise) although a base power plant would be needed.
- Include in the proforma: bond service, comparison of "behind the meter" vs. direct-feed costs and discounts applied to the municipal electric bill, sale of the related RECs

## **5. Update from CPCNH**

Chair Tabor reported at the November 5 meeting that he had received a follow-up email from Jackson Kaspari and Andrew Hatch at CPCNH to answer PEAC questions raised at the October 2 meeting. He invited them to attend the December 3 meeting. Jackson Kaspari thanked the committee for hosting them again and provided follow-up on the following questions:

- a. Kevin Charette had asked for better accessibility to CPCNH reports and Board materials. Kaspari reported that both are included and regularly updated in the CPCNH website documents library [[Document Library | CPCNH – Community Power NH](#)] and in the meeting materials attached to Board meetings in the calendar [[Meetings | CPCNH – Community Power NH](#)]. Kaspari also reported that CPCNH has moved the hiring of a Finance Director up to April 2026.
- b. PEAC had questioned whether low-income community power customers are fully informed, especially when, depending on the rate period, they have the option of lower rates from the default utility. Kaspari suggested reaching out to service agencies and the library who might have the best access to this population. From the written communication in the packet: Under the NHPUC 2200 rules, utilities may provide EAP indicators for customers within their data files but are not required to do so. As a result, we have conducted outreach to Eversource, Unitil and Liberty to ask if they would consider providing EAP information in future data file transfers. In addition to this, I checked to see if the Portsmouth Housing Authority was enrolled with Portsmouth Community Power. The Housing Authority is not with Community Power and appears to be enrolled with another competitive supplier
- c. Andrew Hatch also recommended that customers look at the Portsmouth Community Power page [[Portsmouth | CPCNH – Community Power NH](#)] and sign up for direct notices from CPCNH.
- d. Peter Somssich asked for an update on the proportion of renewables in the PCP Basic option – since Eversource has reduced theirs from 23% to 13%. CPCNH Basic is 18% renewables; but the focus is on their commitment to sustain the Granite Basic (33%), Granite50 (50%) and Granite100 (100%) renewables choices and to be a REC aggregator, purchasing RECs that support projects in New England, ideally NH.

- e. Peter Somssich asked whether Solar 2.0 owners are yet permitted to join community power as Solar 1.0 are – CPCNH is still negotiating with Eversource, who want to give a bulk credit to CPCNH rather than to the customers. Kaspari suggested that all community Solar 2.0 customers join CPCNH in pushing Eversource for this and to end the practice of REC sweeping (claiming RECs from unregistered solar customers without their knowledge or permission). He also noted that as a REC aggregator CPCNH would be interested in purchasing Jones Avenue project RECs. Kaspari noted the upcoming CPCNH Legislative Briefing for 2026 on Fri Dec 5, 10-11:30 am [[Meetings | CPCNH – Community Power NH](#)].

**6. Year End Report**

Committee approved the draft report prepared by Chair Tabor, with the suggestion that the names of the PEAC members be included. Report will be submitted for inclusion in the packet for the December 22, 2025 City Council meeting.

**7. NREL Report**

Chair Tabor noted the inclusion of the final, official, peer-reviewed report in the meeting packet for the public record. The Committee discussed the diminished opportunities for tax credits that might fund further exploration of their recommendations. The NREL name is now National Lab of the Rockies.

**8. New Business – None.**

- a. Peter asked for an update on the proportion of renewables in the PCP Basic option – since Eversource has reduced theirs from 23% to 13%. Chair Tabor said this is one of the questions Kaspari will be prepared to answer at the December 3 meeting.

**9. Public comment – None.**

Adjourned on a motion by Tom Rooney seconded by Peter Somssich at 7:46 pm.

**Next meeting, tentatively January 7, 2026 at 6:30 pm.**



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Dec 22 · 2 min read

## CPCNH Announces Community Power Rates Effective February 1, 2026

★★★★★ No ratings yet

On Thursday, December 18, 2025, the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH) Board of Directors approved a rate adjustment that will go into effect starting February 1, 2026. Granite Basic rates will be between 14.0 and 14.9 ¢/kWh, depending on customer utility and rate classes. Rates are based upon CPCNH cost of service, including a community reserve adder sufficient to retire financing obligations in calendar year 2026. Retiring financing obligations and building community reserves will position local programs through CPCNH to advance their competitiveness for years to come.

“Community Power rates transparently reflect the organization's cost requirements to serve our communities,” said CPCNH Board Chair **Kimberley Quirk**. “Our commitment to enhancing community joint reserves will help position CPCNH to continue to realize the long-term value of community power, which is rooted in local decision-making and developing a more resilient energy future.”

“The vision of Community Power is a marathon, not a sprint, and CPCNH will continue to support our communities with the benefits that come from enhanced local control, customer choice, market innovation, project development, and public advocacy,” added Quirk.

Electric customers in NH have more choice today than ever before. Customers are free to choose between Community Power, third-party options, or their utility. To opt in, out, or to select cleaner power, customers can:

- Use our [online portal](#)
- Call 1-866-603-7697 (POWR) or email [Info@CommunityPowerNH.gov](mailto:Info@CommunityPowerNH.gov)

View rate information on CPCNH's [Residential](#) and [Commercial](#) rates webpages or [below](#). You can learn more about CPCNH's recent rate setting process by [watching our December 19th Office Hour recording](#).

If you would like to receive future rate notifications from CPCNH, please sign up for our emails below:

\* indicates required

First Name

Email Address \*

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View Community Power Rates by Utility Class for February – July 2026

Granite Basic Rates

To view rate tables in browser mode or to share or download rate tables, hover over table and select icon with three dots in the upper right corner.

			CPA UTILITY CLASS RATES (Granite Basic)					
Sector	Utility	Supply Class	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL
Residential	Eversource	R	14.663¢	14.663¢	14.663¢	14.663¢	14.663¢	14.663¢
	Liberty	D, M, T	14.637¢	14.637¢	14.637¢	14.637¢	14.637¢	14.637¢
	Unitil	D	14.942¢ 21.139¢	14.942¢ 13.763¢	14.942¢ 11.523¢	14.942¢ 10.899¢	14.942¢ 11.899¢	14.942¢ 14.137¢
All	NHEC	B	14.504¢	14.504¢	14.504¢	14.504¢	14.504¢	14.504¢
GS & OL	Eversource	G, OL	14.258¢	14.258¢	14.258¢	14.258¢	14.258¢	14.258¢
	Liberty	G3, V, M, LED	14.016¢	14.016¢	14.016¢	14.016¢	14.016¢	14.016¢
	Unitil	G2, OL	14.049¢ 21.139¢	14.049¢ 13.763¢	14.049¢ 11.523¢	14.049¢ 10.899¢	14.049¢ 11.899¢	14.049¢ 14.137¢
Med. Commercial	Eversource	GV	20.696¢	13.751¢	11.450¢	10.788¢	11.799¢	14.068¢
	Liberty	G2	20.180¢	13.059¢	10.935¢	10.354¢	11.384¢	13.694¢
Industrial	Liberty	G1	20.988¢	13.974¢	11.794¢	11.180¢	12.142¢	14.212¢

 Download data

Granite Plus Rates

To view rate tables in browser mode or to share or download rate tables, hover over table and select icon with three dots in the upper right corner.

			CPA UTILITY CLASS RATES (Granite Plus)					
Sector	Utility	Supply Class	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL
Residential	Eversource	R	15.063¢	15.063¢	15.063¢	15.063¢	15.063¢	15.063¢
	Liberty	D, M, T	15.037¢	15.037¢	15.037¢	15.037¢	15.037¢	15.037¢
	Unitil	D	15.342¢	15.342¢	15.342¢	15.342¢	15.342¢	15.342¢
			21.539¢	14.163¢	11.923¢	11.299¢	12.299¢	14.537¢
All	NHEC	B	14.904¢	14.904¢	14.904¢	14.904¢	14.904¢	14.904¢
GS & OL	Eversource	G, OL	14.658¢	14.658¢	14.658¢	14.658¢	14.658¢	14.658¢
	Liberty	G3, V, M, LED	14.416¢	14.416¢	14.416¢	14.416¢	14.416¢	14.416¢
	Unitil	G2, OL	14.449¢	14.449¢	14.449¢	14.449¢	14.449¢	14.449¢
			21.539¢	14.163¢	11.923¢	11.299¢	12.299¢	14.537¢
Med. Commercial	Eversource	GV	21.096¢	14.151¢	11.850¢	11.188¢	12.199¢	14.468¢
	Liberty	G2	20.580¢	13.459¢	11.335¢	10.754¢	11.784¢	14.094¢
Industrial	Liberty	G1	21.388¢	14.374¢	12.194¢	11.580¢	12.542¢	14.612¢

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## Clean 50 Rates

To view rate tables in browser mode or to share or download rate tables, hover over table and select icon with three dots in the upper right corner.

			CPA UTILITY CLASS RATES (Clean 50)					
Sector	Utility	Supply Class	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL
Residential	Eversource	R	15.763¢	15.763¢	15.763¢	15.763¢	15.763¢	15.763¢
	Liberty	D, M, T	15.737¢	15.737¢	15.737¢	15.737¢	15.737¢	15.737¢
	Unitil	D	16.042¢	16.042¢	16.042¢	16.042¢	16.042¢	16.042¢
			22.239¢	14.863¢	12.623¢	11.999¢	12.999¢	15.237¢
All	NHEC	B	15.604¢	15.604¢	15.604¢	15.604¢	15.604¢	15.604¢
GS & OL	Eversource	G, OL	15.358¢	15.358¢	15.358¢	15.358¢	15.358¢	15.358¢
	Liberty	G3, V, M, LED	15.116¢	15.116¢	15.116¢	15.116¢	15.116¢	15.116¢
	Unitil	G2, OL	15.149¢	15.149¢	15.149¢	15.149¢	15.149¢	15.149¢
			22.239¢	14.863¢	12.623¢	11.999¢	12.999¢	15.237¢
Med. Commercial	Eversource	GV	21.796¢	14.851¢	12.550¢	11.888¢	12.899¢	15.168¢
	Liberty	G2	21.280¢	14.159¢	12.035¢	11.454¢	12.484¢	14.794¢
Industrial	Liberty	G1	22.088¢	15.074¢	12.894¢	12.280¢	13.242¢	15.312¢

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## Clean 100 Rates

To view rate tables in browser mode or to share or download rate tables, hover over table and select icon with three dots in the upper right corner.



			CPA UTILITY CLASS RATES (Clean 100)					
Sector	Utility	Supply Class	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL
Residential	Eversource	R	17.663¢	17.663¢	16.749¢	16.876¢	17.003¢	17.130¢
	Liberty	D, M, T	17.637¢	17.637¢	16.723¢	16.850¢	16.977¢	17.104¢
	Unitil	D	17.942¢ 24.139¢	17.942¢ 16.763¢	17.028¢ 16.311¢	17.155¢ 16.436¢	17.282¢ 16.561¢	17.409¢ 16.686¢
All	NHEC	B	17.504¢	17.504¢	16.590¢	16.717¢	16.844¢	16.971¢
GS & OL	Eversource	G, OL	17.258¢	17.258¢	16.344¢	16.471¢	16.598¢	16.725¢
	Liberty	G3, V, M, LED	17.016¢	17.016¢	16.102¢	16.229¢	16.356¢	16.483¢
	Unitil	G2, OL	17.049¢ 24.139¢	17.049¢ 16.763¢	16.135¢ 16.311¢	16.262¢ 16.436¢	16.389¢ 16.561¢	16.516¢ 16.686¢
Med. Commercial	Eversource	GV	23.696¢	16.751¢	16.182¢	16.308¢	16.434¢	16.561¢
	Liberty	G2	23.180¢	16.059¢	15.684¢	15.811¢	15.938¢	16.065¢
Industrial	Liberty	G1	23.988¢	16.974¢	16.450¢	16.575¢	16.700¢	16.824¢

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Watch CPCNH's Recent Office Hours on 2026 Rate Setting below:

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## Rate Updates and Q&A



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POWER COALITION  
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For assistance with your electric bill or opting in, opting out or opting up, email or call:

[info@communitypowernh.gov](mailto:info@communitypowernh.gov)

1-866-603-7697 (POWR)

Contact Center hours are weekdays, 8AM to 5PM.

For general inquiries unrelated to accounts and electric bills:

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## New Hampshire News

### LOCAL NEWS

# Eversource customers expected to see slight bill decrease early next year

DEC 16, 2025

### RATES

## Rate adjustments lowering delivery portion of bill as energy supply costs remain stable

**MANCHESTER, N.H. (December 16, 2025)** – As the new year approaches, Eversource is informing customers that they can expect to see lower costs on their electric bill during the first months of 2026. The energy company recently filed multiple rate adjustments, including energy supply, that will take effect early next year, leading to a slight overall decrease for customers if approved by the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

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“Customers will see the delivery side of their bill go down in January and February, and the supply portion of the bill, which is typically the largest and most volatile due to market forces, is fortunately remaining stable with costs similar to what we saw earlier this year,” said Eversource Executive Vice President of Customer Experience and Energy Strategy Penni Conner. “Even though bills will be slightly decreasing, usage can increase during the colder months as we all spend more time indoors using appliances and lighting for longer periods, so we want to remind customers of the payment plans, assistance programs, and energy efficiency measures available that can help them manage energy usage and costs.”

Due to rate adjustments in the first two months of the new year, the delivery portion of all customer bills will go down, resulting in an approximately \$2 or 2% decrease. The Default Service rate, which is the energy supply that Eversource purchases on behalf of customers with no markup or profit, will remain stable, changing in February from 11.2 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) to 11.3 cents per kWh. Nearly 45 percent of all residential customers in New Hampshire receive their energy supply through a community power program or an alternative supplier and not through Eversource’s Default Service rate, so this supply rate change does not affect those customers. When taking into account all rate changes, the typical residential customer on Default Service using 600 kWh per month is estimated to see an overall total bill decrease of \$1.22, or approximately 1%, compared to their December bill. How a customer’s bill is impacted by these rate

adjustments depends on energy usage and weather conditions.

Eversource encourages all customers to compare the Default Service rate with other available options to choose the one that works best for them. Customers can learn more about supplier options and what to consider before switching on the [Department of Energy's website](#).

### Help is available for customers who need it

Eversource encourages customers to enroll in one of the company's payment plans or assistance programs if they need help with their energy bill.

- Customers that meet certain household income guidelines may qualify for a **Discount Rate** on their monthly bill through the Electric Assistance Program.
- **Flexible Payment Plans** are available to all customers, regardless of income, to pay their past-due balance over a period of time.
- **Budget Billing Plans** are also available and can help customers avoid seasonal spikes on their energy bill by paying a level amount each month based on their average annual usage.
- **Energy Efficiency** solutions and incentives are available to help customers save money and energy.
- **The New Start Program** can help income-eligible customers reduce or eliminate their outstanding balance in as little as 12 months when they make

on-time monthly payments and Eversource will make up the difference by eliminating or forgiving a portion of the total balance enrolled in the program – reducing the amount owed each month.

Regardless of financial need, customers are eligible for payment plans and are urged to visit [Eversource.com](https://www.eversource.com) for more information on the variety of available programs the energy company offers, which can help customers use less energy and manage energy costs.

*Eversource (NYSE: ES), celebrated as a national leader for its corporate citizenship, is recognized as the #1 U.S. utility on [TIME's](#) List of World's Best Companies for 2024.*

*Eversource is New Hampshire's largest electric utility, serving nearly 544,000 homes and businesses in 206 cities and towns, and also supplies water to approximately 10,600 homes and businesses in eight communities.*

*Eversource is proud to be recognized as the #1 contributor to United Way in New Hampshire. Eversource harnesses the commitment of more than 10,000 employees across three states to build a single, united company around the mission of safely delivering reliable energy and water with superior customer service. The #1 Energy Efficiency Provider in the Nation, the company is empowering a clean energy future in the Northeast, with nationally recognized energy efficiency solutions and successful programs to integrate new clean energy resources like a first-in-the-nation networked geothermal pilot project, solar, offshore wind, electric vehicles and battery storage, into the electric system. For more information, please visit [eversource.com](https://www.eversource.com), and follow us on [X](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#),*

and [LinkedIn](#). For more information on our water services, visit [aquarionwater.com](http://aquarionwater.com).

**CONTACT:**

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[william.hinkle@eversource.com](mailto:william.hinkle@eversource.com)

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CITY OF PORTSMOUTH NH



January x, 2026

## **Community Power Coalition of NH Announces Increase in Portsmouth Community Power Rates, Effective February 1, 2026**

Portsmouth, New Hampshire – The Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH) has advised its member municipalities, including Portsmouth Community Power, that the electricity supply rates for the rate period February 1, 2026 through July 31, 2026 will increase. The new CPCNH Granite Basic default rate for residential and small commercial customers will increase to 14.663 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh), from the current 13.419 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh), still in effect through January 31, 2026.

Rates are based upon CPCNH cost of service, including a community reserve addition sufficient to retire financing obligations in calendar year 2026. CPCNH also announced the commercial rates – General and Outdoor Lighting; and Medium. For details on the Commercial rates, visit: [Commercial Rates | CPCNH – Community Power NH](#).

Electric customers in NH can choose between Community Power, third-party options, or their default utility, which in Portsmouth is Eversource. Portsmouth Community Power customers can opt in, out, or “up” to select cleaner power, at any time and then switch back without penalty by visiting [communitypowernh.gov](https://communitypowernh.gov) or by calling 1-866-603-7697. For more information on Portsmouth Community Power, visit [portsnh.co/commpower](https://portsnh.co/commpower).

“For a second rate period, CPCNH rates are higher than Eversource as CPCNH works to build prudent operating reserves,” said City Councilor John Tabor, chair of the City’s Energy Advisory Committee which monitors the Portsmouth Community Power program. “We know some residents can’t afford higher utility prices right now and they can opt out of community power to automatically default to Eversource and re-enroll in the future with no penalties.”

“Community Power still strives for lower costs and higher renewable energy choices compared to Eversource. Portsmouth Community Power gives residents and small businesses a choice when it comes to their energy supply. In the long-term, being able to select options with higher proportions of renewable sources mean the City is better able to achieve its Climate Action



Plan by reducing our carbon footprint and saving towards future funding of our own green energy projects.”

In making the announcement CPCNH Board Chair Kimberley Quirk said, “Retiring financing obligations and building community reserves will position local programs through CPCNH to advance their competitiveness for years to come. Community Power rates transparently reflect the organization's cost requirements to serve our communities. Our commitment to enhancing community joint reserves will help position CPCNH to continue to realize the long-term value of community power, which is rooted in local decision-making and developing a more resilient energy future. The vision of Community Power is a marathon, not a sprint, and CPCNH will continue to support our communities with the benefits that come from enhanced local control, customer choice, market innovation, project development, and public advocacy.”

The new Portsmouth Community Power choices and rates as of February 1, 2026 are as follows:

Eversource Residential Customers			
Community Power Supply Rates Effective Feb. 1 – July 31, 2026			
For Eversource Residential Customers			
Power Options	Renewable Content <sup>†</sup>	Rate (¢/kWh)	Estimated Cost of Supply per Month*
Clean 100	100%	17.663¢	~ \$115/month
Clean 50	50%	15.763¢	~ \$102/month
Granite Plus	33%	15.063¢	~ \$98/month
Granite Basic	25.2% <sup>†</sup>	14.663¢	~ \$95/month

Eversource			
General Service & Outdoor Lighting			
Community Power Supply Rates Effective Feb. 1 – July 31, 2026			
For Eversource General Service & Outdoor Lighting Customers			
Power Options	Renewable Content <sup>†</sup>	Rate (¢/kWh)	Estimated Cost of Supply per Month*
Clean 100	100%	17.258¢	~ \$112/month
Clean 50	50%	15.358¢	~ \$100/month
Granite Plus	33%	14.658¢	~ \$95/month
Granite Basic	25.2% <sup>†</sup>	14.258¢	~ \$93/month

## Medium Commercial

Community Power Supply Rates Effective Feb. 1 – July 31, 2026

*For Eversource GV (Mid Commercial) Customers*

	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL
Clean 100	23.696¢	16.751¢	14.450¢	13.788¢	14.799¢	17.068¢
Clean 50	21.796¢	14.851¢	12.550¢	11.888¢	12.899¢	15.168¢
Granite Plus	21.096¢	14.151¢	11.850¢	11.188¢	12.199¢	14.468¢
Granite Basic	20.696¢	13.751¢	11.450¢	10.788¢	11.799¢	14.068¢