

Town of Union's Green Energy Choices Make a Big Impact

Union's Green CCA Marks 1 Year of Environmental Benefit

It's easy to talk about "going green" and making environmentally-sound choices. In the Town of Union, the talk became action last year through Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). Over the past year, the residents of the Town of Union have banded together to make a greener choice every time they turn the lights on.

In July 2019, the Town joined a group of Southern Tier municipalities that chose a 100% renewable electricity supply for their residents. The group also includes:

- Village of Elmira Heights
- Village of Horseheads
- Town of Lebanon
- Town of Nelson
- Village of Owego

Through the MEGA CCA program, Union committed to support renewable energy by participating in a bulk purchase of green electricity for residents and small businesses.

One year into the program, the environmental impact of this collective action is significant. In total, these six communities purchased nearly 47 million kWh of green electricity supply over the past year. According to the EPA, that's the equivalent of:

- Removing the greenhouse gases produced by driving 7,165 vehicles over the course of the year;
- Recycling 1,411,1175 bags of trash instead of sending them to the landfill;
- Sequestering the carbon from 43,313 acres of forest over one year

CCA, a powerful tool in New York's move toward renewable energy, is new to New York State but 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 residents and small businesses access to 100% renewable electricity, competitive electric rates, and price stability. The program also helps combat the predatory practices of energy telemarketers and door-to-door sales.

For more information visit www.megacca.org.

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