Municipal Aggregation

Massachusetts residents and businesses have a lot of choice when it comes their energy source. One option is for customers to band together to buy their electricity using “municipal aggregation.” With aggregation, a city or town contracts with an electricity supplier on behalf of all residents and businesses who have not already selected one. By entering into long-term contracts and leveraging significant buying power, aggregations can provide cost savings and more price stability than the utility.

While Massachusetts law mandates that all electricity suppliers include a minimum amount of new renewable energy sources from our region, aggregations may opt to exceed that. MAPC has supported the implementation of “green” municipal aggregation, in which the default electricity supply includes extra New England-sourced renewable energy. A green aggregation is intended to help build new renewable resources within our electric grid, while still delivering savings and stability.

MAPC partnered with Melrose to pioneer this approach in 2016. Since then, many municipalities have adopted the idea. Ten municipalities now have active green municipal aggregations, and another 10 have authorized it. Together, the combined impact of these aggregations in the state could add more than 50 new one-megawatt wind turbines to the New England grid.