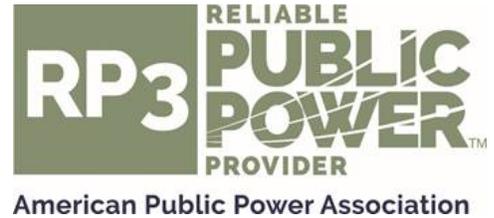




**A Customer Owned Utility**  
Serving Our Community Since 1894

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**August 17, 2017**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**North Attleborough Electric Department Announces Forthcoming  
Customer Survey About Community Solar**

James C. Moynihan, General Manager, announced today that the North Attleborough Electric Department (NAED) anticipates that it will commence later this week a survey of one (100) customers about the their interest in "Community Solar".

The survey, which will be done by the firm of "Great Blue Research", is expected to take about ten (10) days to complete.

Community Solar is an effort to promote "alternative" or "green" energy usage by a utility (such as NAED), constructing a solar farm and allowing its customers to purchase solar power generated electricity. Mr. Moynihan stated, "NAED is considering a proposal to develop a small "Community Solar" facility in the Town of North Attleborough and is most interested in the thoughts and feedback of our customers." The General Manager also noted that NAED received a grant from the state's Executive Office of Environmental Affairs to evaluate the "Community Solar Project".

Mr. Moynihan noted that per information from the American Public Power Association (APPA):

*"Community solar is defined as a solar power installation that is jointly owned or leased by community members or — if owned by a third party — provides shared benefits (including purchased power, credits against electric utility bills, and fixed rates for power) to participating community members. The utility-sponsored community solar project model is the predominant model for public power utilities. Under this model, customers generally receive a bill credit for their share of generation from the project"*

### ***Utility Benefits***

- *Helps respond to otherwise unmet customer demand for solar*
- *Demonstrates utility's responsible environmental stewardship*
- *Improves customer relationships*
- *May optimize system benefits of solar production*
- *Offers better visibility of system production and interplay with system operation and unit dispatch*

### ***Customer Benefits***

- *Economies of scale mean lower costs*
- *Access to solar for customers that cannot or may not want to install rooftop solar*
- *Marketing benefits to commercial/industrial customers, depending on Renewable Energy Credit issues*
- *Simplicity in billing*
- *Helps avoid permitting, maintenance, and negative aesthetic impacts*

Mr. Moynihan noted, "Consideration of a "Community Solar" project is consistent with the interest noted by our ratepayers about "green energy" possibilities in our recent customer surveys and we look forward to receiving input from our customers."

The final results of the survey will be presented to the Board of Electric Commissioners at a future meeting. Questions regarding the survey can be directed to NAED at 508-643-6300.