

Thursday, June 1, 2023

## Mayor's Newton Update



### Save This Summer With Newton Power Choice

Good news: Newton Power Choice is less expensive even at 100% Green than Eversource's new summer prices.

Eversource just asked the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU) to approve new electric supply rates for residential customers for July 1 through December 31, 2023. We expect the DPU to approve these or similar rates.

Eversource's request to the DPU is for 16.08 cents per kWh.

This is higher than Newton Power Choice (NPC) prices under our existing NPC contract:

- NPC Standard: 13.45 cents per kWh (the default rate—what you pay if you take no action, includes 84% renewable power).
- NPC 100% Green: 14.36 cents per kWh (an opt-up rate, with 100% renewables).
- NPC Basic: 10.65 cents per kWh (an opt-down rate, with the State minimum level of renewables, which is 22% this year).

So, NPC is less expensive even at 100% Green than Eversource's summer prices. We know that Eversource's winter prices are always more expensive than its summer prices.

To avoid confusion:

- These prices refer only to the electric *supply* portion of your electricity bill, which is about half the bill. (The rest of the bill covers mostly delivery costs.)
- A few days ago, I announced a new NPC contract. The prices referred to in this message are about *this summer's* prices under the existing NPC contract, not about the new NPC contract which starts in January 2024.

Also remember:

You'll save money if you use less energy. Don't overcool your home; do operate major appliances during the cooler parts of the day; and, keep blinds and curtains closed when it's hot out. Learn more about how to save money and energy with a Mass Save Home Energy Assessment from Newton's partner Home Performance Contractor, [Endless Energy](#).

If you are on a tight budget, there are opportunities for financial assistance with electricity bills. Customers with low incomes may qualify for Eversource's low-income rate, which provides a discount of approximately one-third. Contact Eversource about payment plans and financial assistance programs at [eversource.com/help-pay-my-bill](https://eversource.com/help-pay-my-bill) or call Eversource at 866-861-6225.

Want to know more about Newton Power Choice? Go to [NewtonPowerChoice.com](https://NewtonPowerChoice.com).

*Six Newton students were selected for Newton Cultural Development's spring public art project SHINE and their work is now installed at Emerson Playground, Cabot Park, Albemarle Playground, Newton Centre Playground, Newton Highlands Playground and West Newton Commons. Thank you to Newton's Parks, Recreation & Culture team who conceived of the project, selected the artists, and installed the murals. Find more information and photos of the artwork [here](#). Congratulations to artists Aleeza Amitan, Charlotte Pinto, Dahlia Firoozabadi, Lucy Hurwitz, Naomi Goldstein and Alexandra Stanton.*

*(Photo: Mike Antonellis, Donny Brandt and Donald LeBlanc from Newton's PRC maintenance team.)*



## **FY 2024 City of Newton Budget Approved**

The City Council last night unanimously approved my proposed \$570,016,326 City of Newton Budget for Fiscal Year 2024 which begins on July 1.

To each and every City Councilor, your voices were heard. You make a difference in how I think, how I strategize, and how I try to lead.

I want to thank Interim Superintendent Kathy Smith, Assistant Superintendent Liam Hurley and Sean Manion, as well as the Assistant Superintendents, Principals and so many other NPS staff for their thoughtfulness and hard work that went into crafting an override package, and then when the operating override failed, in reimagining the school budget yet again. They've been amazing.

They've been supported in their work by an incredibly hardworking School Committee. Curriculum, pedagogy, delivering academic excellence, educational equity, social and emotional supports - the School Committee is right in the center of it. I thank them.

Each year the City Council hears from the heads of each City department who outline their goals and answer questions about their proposed budgets. I love that this year they heard from Mignonne Murray, a first timer as Director of Senior

Services in Newton as well as John Lojek, taking his final bow as the Commissioner of Inspectional Services. In between, Councilors heard from so many good, thoughtful, hardworking and caring Department Heads and the staffs behind them. They're here day after day after day. They will now do the hard work to implement what is contained in the budget that just passed, and they will continue to do so to the best of their ability.

I want to thank the people who live here and work here and pay all our taxes, the people that fuel the work that we do. It's you that we're all trying to serve.

In Newton, we have a really engaged community. We hear from so many of you. Keep it up, keep sending the emails and letters, keep calling. I'll ask, sometimes please be a little more gentle. We hear you even if it's a quiet touch rather than a loud noise.

With the amazing leadership of the School Committee and the City Council, we will work through our fiscal constraints, and we'll meet the challenges of our times – zoning and housing, transportation and roads, education and human services, policing and firefighting, and climate change. We're right in the thick of it, and there's no place else in the world I'd rather be doing this work.

Thank you to the City Council for passing the FY 2024 Budget.

We started rolling up our sleeves today on how we can serve all of you even better.

Warmly,

Ruthanne

P.S. Tonight, we raised the Pride flag on the ceremonial flagpole at City Hall. The flag will fly for the month of June in support of our LGBTQ+ neighbors and the rights of everyone to be their true selves, to love whomever they choose, and to

be treated with dignity and respect, with equity and protection. Events are planned across Newton to **Celebrate Pride Month**. Click [here](#) for a full list.

(Photo: Raising the Pride flag with tonight's honorees, members of ToBeGlad from Newton North High School.)



P.P.S. Are there empty spaces on the berm next to sidewalks in your neighborhood where trees could provide shade and beauty? The Newton Tree Conservancy is now accepting applications from groups of neighbors for their **Fall 2023 Community Tree Plantings**. The application deadline is Friday, June 23. Questions? Find more information and a group application [here](#).

P.P.P.S. **Celebrate our Safety Superheros** on Wednesday, June 7 during Bus/Van Driver & Crossing Guard Appreciation Day. Help your student make a

card and say a special thank you to our bus/van drivers and crossing guards for another year of helping our students arrive at school ready to learn. Learn more about the Newton Safe Routes to School Task

Force at [NewtonSafeRoutes.org](https://www.newtonsaferoutes.org). A special thanks to [Green Newton](https://www.greennewton.org) for donating flowers for our crossing guards.



P.P.P.P.S. The next **California Street Manufacturing District Zoning Study** meeting is on Thursday, June 8 at 7:00 p.m. The hybrid meeting will be held in City Council Chambers at City Hall, 1000 Comm Ave., and on zoom at <https://newtonma-gov.zoom.us/j/88190188507>. Planners from the City of Newton, Utile and Landwise will host the discussion of potential alternatives, incorporating input from community members during the last meeting. Find more information [here](#).

P.P.P.P.S. Join the fun playing **bocce at Cabot Park** in Newtonville on Mondays from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and share in the friendship and get some exercise through the summer and early fall. Never played? No problem, free lessons are offered for beginners. Please call Program Director Nancy Scammon in Newton's Parks, Recreation and Culture Department at 617-796-1506 to register.



*(Photo: With Eagle Scout Paul Milliken Jr. and his family, Park, Recreation and Culture Commissioner Nicole Banks and Superintendent of Public Grounds*

*Derek Manion. Paul restored a bocce court at Cabot Park as part of his Eagle Scout project.)*



P.P.P.P.P.S. Food, live music and lots of free fun for kids including caricatures, face painting and touch-a-truck with the Newton DPW and Fire Department at the **Newton Highlands Village Day**, Lincoln Street (between Walnut & Bowdoin),

Sunday, June 11, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

### Previous P.S.s Happening Soon

P.S. Enjoy free live music at approximately 70 yards and porches in Auburndale, Waban and Lower Falls at **Newton PorchFest** on Saturday, June 3 (raindate is Sunday, June 4), from noon to 6:00 p.m. Find info [here](#).

P.P.S. **11<sup>th</sup> Annual Carroll Center for the Blind Walk for Independence** on Saturday, June 3, 8:00 a.m. to noon, on the Mt. Ida Campus of UMass Amherst (100 Carlson Ave.). Find info [here](#).

P.P.P.S. **Nonantum Village Day**, Sunday, June 4, 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Coletti-Magni Park, 386-392 Watertown Street (between Adams and Chapel Streets).

P.P.P.P.S. **Ask a Neighbor Sustainable Street Tour @Garland**, on Sunday, June 4, noon to 4:00 p.m. on Garland Road. (Turn onto Garland Road, off Homer Street and stop by a welcome tent to get started on the tour.) Find info [here](#).



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