

Survey of Fairhaven Residents

Sponsored by the Fairhaven Sustainability Committee
and Climate Reality Massachusetts Southcoast

This survey is to gauge interest in a 10% increase in the amount of renewable energy Fairhaven purchases.

The survey will remain open through July 20, 2020.

To take the survey online: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3TCQT8J>

I. Background

The Town of Fairhaven has joined with 22 other communities to aggregate, or jointly purchase, our electricity, saving money over time (<https://masscea.com/>). The Town has an option to voluntarily and automatically purchase 10% more renewable electricity for 2021 than the 18% the state currently requires, for a total of 28% renewables. The state required amount is increasing at about 2% per year. This Electric Aggregation Contract also automatically gives everyone the following choices:

- Opt up to 50% or 100% renewable electricity.
- Opt down to receive no additional renewable electricity above the state law requirement.
- Opt out of the aggregation program altogether.

II. Question

Do you support a change in the Town’s Electric Aggregation Contract that would increase everyone’s renewable electricity purchase by 10% (from the 18% state mandated amount to a total of 28%), unless they choose to opt out?

Please check one: Yes No Don’t know

III. Potential Impact

- The average four-bedroom household would increase their electric bill by about \$2 per month, or \$24 per year, based on 7,000 kWh consumption, or usage, per year.
- To learn how the change would impact you, look at your electric bill and multiply your actual annual electricity consumption, or usage (shown in kilowatt hours, or kWh) by \$0.00355.
- A large, refrigerated commercial building - like a typical grocery store - could see their electricity costs increase by approximately \$650 per month or about \$7800 per year.

IV. Why support this?

The Fairhaven Sustainability Committee and Climate Reality MA Southcoast together advocate for this 10% increase, which would include everyone unless they choose to opt out. The Sustainability Committee and Climate Reality believe that, as a designated Green Community, Fairhaven should take action to reduce the region’s reliance on brown energy and increase our use of green energy, and that quickly increasing green energy usage can help avert the worst impacts of climate change, leading to:

- Local environmental benefits, such as limiting sea level rise, ocean warming, and storm severity.
- Jobs in the clean energy industry - New Bedford is poised to be the regional leader in offshore wind.

V. For more information

You can learn more about the details of the Town’s Electric Aggregation Contract and this change by visiting the Town of Fairhaven website (<https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/conservation-and-sustainability/pages/community-electricity-aggregation>)

VI. Demographic Information

Any identifying information will not be shared as part of the results from this survey. It is only to determine that survey respondents reside in Fairhaven and which age demographic they fall in.

Name: _____ Address: _____

Please check one:

- 18-29 30-39 40-49 50-64 65+