



Cape Light Compact

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The Cape Light Compact is a cooperative effort of 21 Cape and Island towns and Barnstable and Dukes Counties. The Compact was formed in 1997 following two years of study and town meeting and town council votes. Its purpose is to represent consumer interests in emerging competitive markets for electricity. It seeks to aggregate all consumers to negotiate the best rates for the supply and distribution of electricity and to advance consumer protection for the residents and businesses of Cape Cod and the Vineyard. It brings together the buying power of approximately 200,000 customers. Participation is voluntary for the towns and voluntary for each individual consumer. Any individual has the opportunity to decline service provided through the Compact and choose any electric supplier they wish.

The Compact provides: 1) an option to join together for purchase of power supply at reduced rates; 2) recovery of funds collected from Cape Consumers by NSTAR each year for energy efficiency, and application of those funds in locally-approved energy efficiency and conservation programs; 3) an opportunity for professional representation at the state level and in negotiations with NSTAR.

This comprehensive approach, undertaken with legal and technical support, is vitally important as the electric industry continues in its transition to a competitive market.

POWER SUPPLY PROGRAM

The Electric Restructuring Act (Act) of 1997 created two types of electric service rates, “Standard Offer” and “Default Service”. The Act was phased-in over a 7 year period, March 1, 1998 to February 28, 2005. On March 1, 2005, the Compact’s contract for power supply services began for both standard offer and default service customers. Under this contract, approximately 160,000 Cape Cod and Martha’s Vineyard customers are provided competitive electricity contract through ConEdison *Solutions*.

The Compact’s Power Supply Program provides an important option for consumers. It gives consumers the chance to join together to get the best prices and terms for electric service. The Compact’s power supply program offers benefits to all types of consumers: residential, businesses, municipal and industrial.

Small and large consumers benefit by being part of what suppliers consider a diverse and attractive load factor in this region. Pricing will be based on classes of customers or individual pattern of use. Large and small consumers benefit from savings for themselves and the regional economy, as well as additional benefits from energy efficiency program funds.

CAPE AND ISLANDS ENERGY EFFICIENCY PLAN

The Electric Utility Restructuring Act of 1997 included provisions to allow communities establishing power supply programs to recover funds being paid to NSTAR for energy efficiency programs, and to utilize those funds in locally-designed programs approved by the towns. Consistent with its purposes, the Cape Light Compact developed an Energy Efficiency Plan that was approved by the boards of selectmen, town council and town meetings. The Plan was approved by the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy in the spring of 2001. Services began on July 1, 2001. Through 2008 the Compact has returned over \$44 million to the ratepayers of Barnstable County through the delivery of energy efficiency services under the Plan.

The Plan addresses all types of customers. It includes rebates for lighting and energy efficient appliances and heating systems; free reviews of electric energy use; new construction and renovation rebates; and a local education and marketing program.

The Plan includes some of the best programs from the region, and is working to enhance those programs. The program holds the potential to provide substantial savings for individual consumers and to enhance job creation for the region. The Compact believes that it presents an opportunity to set new benchmarks for consumer service.

The Cape Light Compact, in partnership with the Barnstable County Cooperative Extension, has adopted the National Energy Education Development Project (NEED) to bring energy education to the Cape’s and Vineyard’s schools. The NEED Project includes curriculum materials, professional development and evaluation tools. A recognition program highlights the outstanding energy education outreach efforts of award winning schools.

CONSUMER SAVINGS

The Member towns authorized the Compact to investigate the economic and other benefits of the towns purchasing their streetlights from NSTAR; to negotiate with NSTAR related to such economic and other benefits; and to represent the towns on this issue before the Department of Telecommunications and Energy. As a result of the Compact’s investigation and negotiations with NSTAR, the following towns and Fire Districts purchased their streetlight systems from NSTAR at a savings to the town:

Bourne	Brewster
Barnstable Fire District	Chatham
Cotuit Fire District	Dennis
Hyannis Fire District	Harwich
Mashpee	Orleans
Provincetown	Sandwich
Truro	Wellfleet

The Compact also solicited bids for the maintenance of town owned streetlights. As a result of aggregating all of the streetlights under one Request for Proposal (RFP), the Compact saved the towns additional funds on the maintenance contract. The towns of Yarmouth and Falmouth, who already owned their streetlights,

also participated in the maintenance contract.
Annual savings resulting from the purchase of the streetlights and the maintenance contract for all of the participating towns totals \$275,000.

MEMBER TOWNS

Aquinnah	Barnstable
Bourne	Brewster
Chatham	Chilmark
Dennis	Eastham
Edgartown	Falmouth
Harwich	Mashpee
Oak Bluffs	Orleans
Provincetown	Sandwich
Tisbury	Truro
Wellfleet	West Tisbury
Yarmouth	
Barnstable County	
Dukes County	