



**City of Gardner - *Executive Department***

**Mayor Michael J. Nicholson**

May 1, 2023

Hon. Elizabeth J. Kazinskas, Council President  
And City Councilors  
Gardner City Hall, Rm 121  
95 Pleasant St  
Gardner, MA 01440

RE: A Notification Regarding City Electrical Aggregation Rates

Dear Madam President and Councilors,

On September 30, 2022, I sent an email (attached) to the City Council notifying them at the City's Municipal Electrical Aggregation contract was going to be expiring, which resulted in a much larger increase in electrical rates than anticipated due to several different factors going on at the time. In this email, I notified the Council that while the rates were much lower than the rate National Grid was offering, they were still high, so I made the decision to only sign a one-year contract at this rate, rather than lock the City for three years at this rate.

On May 1, 2023, I signed the new contract for our Municipal Electrical Aggregation at a rate of \$0.1418/kilowatt hour from the period of November 1, 2023 through October 31, 2025.

This represents a \$0.09607/kilowatt hour reduction in rates that our rate payers will be seeing on their electric bill. This is also \$0.05 less than what we anticipate the regular National Grid rate to be this fall.

To put this into further perspective, our previous municipal aggregation contract was active from 2019-2022 and had a rate of \$0.13/kilowatt hour. This move gets us almost close to where we were at rates before the pandemic, inflation, Eastern European Conflicts, oil concerns, and the other world events that have caused utility prices to increase in recent years.

As was done in the past, the Administration will be working on ways to get this information out to the public for their knowledge, as our Municipal Electrical Aggregation system is an automatic system for people to opt-out of if they chose.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael J. Nicholson  
Mayor, City of Gardner