



CITIES FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, December 6, 2017, 8:00 AM 2nd Floor **Committee** Conference Room, City Hall

Members:

Dr. Ann Shedd, Chair
Peter Hansel, Vice Chair
Gary Lamoureux, Councilor
Mari Brunner
Terry Clark
Chris Brehme
Jess Baum
Larry Dachowski, Alternate
Dick Cornelius, Alternate

Staff:

Rhett Lamb, Planning Director
Michele Chalice, Planner

1. Call To Order and Roll Call
2. Approval of November 1, 2017 minutes
3. Greenhouse Gas Report Update
4. Retreat Agenda Compilation
5. Status of City Council Request – Renewable Energy Advocacy Letters
6. Weatherization +/- Solarization Campaign, Next Steps
7. Open Committee “Alternate” Positions
8. Adjournment – Next Meeting, Wednesday, January 3, 2018

RESOURCES:

SAVE THE DATE – **2018 CCP RETREAT – Thursday, January 18, 4:30 – 6:30PM**, Trustee’s Room, Keene Public Library, Winter Street, Keene, NH

Vital Communities, Energy: <http://vitalcommunities.org/energy/weatherize/>

Energy Transitions Research Lab: Dr. Thomas Webler, KSC
www.energytrans.org

Sierra Club Ready for 100% Renewables campaign:
<http://www.sierraclub.org/ready-for-100/about-our-program>

Pathways to 100%:
<http://www.mc-group.com/pathways-to-100/>

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Wednesday, November 1, 2017, 8:00 AM 2nd Floor **Committee** Conference Room,
City Hall

Members:

Dr. Ann Shedd, Chair
Peter Hansel, Vice Chair
Mari Brunner, Member
Terry Clark, Councilor
Chris Brehme, Member
Larry Dachowski, Alternate
Dick Cornelius, Alternate
Charles Daloz, Guest
Jessica Baum, Guest

Staff: Michele Chalice, City Planner

Members not present:

Gary Lamoureux, Councilor

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Shedd called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. She asked everyone to speak loudly and to state their names for the meeting recording. Ms. Baum reported that she has not yet been appointed to the committee. Chair Shedd asked Councilor Clark about the process and timeline for appointing members to the committee. Terry Clark said that the process required two meetings with City Council; one meeting to nominate, and the next meeting to approve.

2. Approval of October 4, 2017 minutes

Chair Shedd asked if there were any corrections or discussion related to the minutes from the October 4, 2017 meeting. Hearing none, Vice Chair Hansel made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2017 CCP meeting. Councilor Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. ButtonUp workshop: De-Brief

Chair Shedd thanked everyone who helped with the ButtonUp workshop on October 7th and asked for feedback. Vice Chair Hansel said that the presentation was very good, however attendance could have been better. He asked how many people attended. Chair Shedd replied that there were about 15 people who attended the workshop, and of those, 7 were members of the general public and the remainder were committee members. Chair Shedd asked the committee if the workshop should be offered again in the future, and if so, what could be improved. Vice Chair Hansel mentioned the importance of

outreach and marketing to get people to the workshop. Ms. Baum suggested using key words or messages in communications and outreach materials to attract attendees. Chair Shedd said that Ms. Christa Daniels from the Climate Center at Antioch University recommended using case studies to communicate how weatherization can help people save money and use that money for other purposes, e.g. a trip to Disney World.

Chair Shedd said that the ButtonUp workshop may or may not be funded in the future, however if it is available, the CCP committee should consider planning another workshop.

4. Greenhouse Gas Report Update

Ms. Brunner provided a brief update on the 2015 greenhouse gas inventory report for the City of Keene. She said the report will include two separate inventories, one for community-wide emissions and one for emissions from local government operations (i.e. municipal inventory). She provided a handout which shows the preliminary results of the two inventories.

Ms. Brunner stated that the community-wide inventory is broken out into four broad sectors, which are residential energy use, commercial and industrial energy use, transportation, and solid waste. She said from 1995 to 2015, community-wide emissions decreased by 2.8% and per capital emissions decreased by 5.4%.

Ms. Brunner stated that the municipal inventory is split into seven sectors, which are buildings and facilities, vehicle fleet, wastewater facilities, solid waste operations, airport, streetlights and traffic signals, and water supply facilities. Ms. Brunner noted that in the community-wide inventory, the solid waste sector includes emissions associated with the production of solid waste. In the municipal inventory, the solid waste operations sector includes emissions associated with the operation of the transfer station located at the Keene municipal landfill. In addition, it includes fugitive methane emissions from the landfill. Terry Clark asked what “fugitive methane emissions” are. Ms. Brunner responded that organic materials in the landfill are decomposed under anaerobic conditions into carbon dioxide and methane. She stated that methane is a greenhouse gas that is about 28 times more powerful than carbon dioxide. She said that in 1995, Keene did not have a landfill gas capture system in place, so 100% of the fugitive methane emissions were released into the atmosphere.

Ms. Brunner stated that the municipal inventory shows an overall decrease of 77% in emissions between 1995 and 2015 when fugitive methane emissions from the Keene municipal landfill are included. She said this large decrease is due to the fact that the City of Keene installed a system to capture the majority of the methane emissions from the landfill and combust them to generate energy to operate the transfer station. Ms. Brunner spoke with Michael Steinhoff from ICLEI, and he recommended including the methane fugitive emissions in the municipal inventory because it gives a more complete picture of the emissions which are under the City’s control, and it also shows how measures such as the methane capture system can be effective at reducing emissions. She

said when the fugitive methane emissions from the landfill are not included in the municipal inventory; the decrease in emissions between 1995 and 2015 is 26%.

Councilor Clark asked where the emissions from the water supply sector come from. He noted that a hydroelectric system had been installed at the water treatment facility, which should offset most if not all of the energy use. Ms. Brunner said that the water supply sector includes propane usage from the water treatment facility and energy usage from the water pumps which are used to deliver water through the City's water system. She said to her knowledge, the hydroelectric system is off-setting 100% of the water treatment plant's electricity use. Ms. Chalice offered to check on the water treatment facility's electricity use to confirm.

Vice Chair Hansel asked if the emissions from the vehicle fleet sector went up because the number of vehicles has gone up. Ms. Brunner said that the number of vehicles has not gone up, however the composition of the vehicles in the vehicle fleet has changed. She explained that the 1995 vehicle fleet emissions were calculated using cost data, which is not the preferred method. She said this method approximates how many gallons of fuel were used by dividing the money spent on fuel by the average cost per gallon of the fuel (not including taxes, which municipalities do not have to pay). She stated that in 2015, the vehicle fleet emissions were calculated using fuel usage data. Ms. Brunner noted that, in 2015, the City used a B20 biofuel blend for all 12 months of the year, which helped offset emissions from vehicles that use diesel fuel.

5. Weatherization Campaign Update - Upper Valley Model

Vice Chair Hansel asked if they could combine weatherization and solar into one campaign Solar is more attractive and can get people in the door. Ms. Baum and Ms. Brunner agreed.

Chair Shedd stated that they need strong local leadership to run a campaign. She mentioned a regional energy hub idea.

Ms. Brunner asked about the geographic focus of the weatherization/solarize campaign (city/region). Vice Chair Hansel said he thinks a more regional focus would be more effective (larger pool of customers for contractors)

6. CCP: Membership, name, goals

Chair Shedd stated that 6 committee members are up for re-appointment. Mr. Cornelius will not renew, everyone else will. She said the committee needs 1-2 more people - one to fill Mr. Cornelius' spot, another for an alternate position.

Chair Shedd read the committee's mission. Ms. Brunner asked about the committee charge. She said she spoke with JB Mack, a past chair of the CCP committee, who said the committee updated their charge so that the committee would officially be considered an energy committee and could accept grants that are for energy committees.

Ms. Chalice said she would send committee charge to committee via email and also see if it is posted online.

Chair Shedd asked for name ideas. Some ideas that were proposed include “Energy and Climate Committee,” “Energy and Sustainability Committee,” and “Energy and Resilience Committee.” There was some discussion about how broad or specific the name should be, for example should it include “Renewable Energy” and/or “Energy Efficiency”? Both Chair Shedd and Vice Chair Hansel said they would prefer to keep the name more broad.

7. NH Office of Strategic Initiatives update to 2014 Energy Plan-
<https://www.nh.gov/osi/energy/programs/sb191.htm>

Both Chair Shedd and Ms. Chalice gave updates on various bills (HB 592, HB 559, HB 317, HB 114). They said deadline was August 31 so CCP had no opportunity to comment. HB592, HB114, HB 559. Vice Chair. Hansel motioned to request that the City send letters of support/comment regarding HB592 regarding the potential withdrawal from the REGI program and opposing moving the REGI funding out of energy efficiency programs and to 100% bill payer rebates, matching the other states in REGI. He said for HB114 to encourage retaining the prior language of the bill setting the renewable energy standard in 2025 from 6% to 15%. They plan to clarify about HB559 is the bill that would have directed the energy efficiency funds to low income and town and municipality programs and the science technology and energy program

Vice Chair Hansel motioned to ask Keene City Council to send a letter to the NH legislature that would ask them to increase the percentage of RGGI funds that go towards energy efficiency to 100%, or at the very least, to maintain the percentage at 20%. The motion was seconded by Councilor Clark and passed unanimously.

Ms. Chalice stated that there is a ButtonUp webinar - she will send more information to the committee via email.

8. Adjournment - Next Meeting, Wednesday, December 6, 2017

The meeting adjourned at 9:09 a.m.

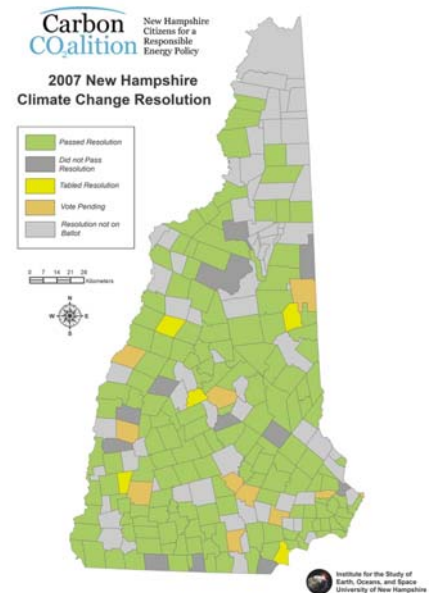
Respectfully submitted by,

Ayshah Kassamali-Fox, Minute-Taker

House Bill 189/RSA 38-D Local Energy Commissions

At Town Meeting 2007 communities across New Hampshire placed resolutions on their ballots calling for a strong federal response to climate change. Many of these cities and towns also took advantage of the opportunity to act locally on this global issue and began forming Local Energy Committees. These committees are often comprised of local citizens and municipal staff members and are charged with assessing and improving community action on global warming and energy use.

As Local Energy Committees began pursuing significant projects within their communities, local governments sought a means to formalize their roles and responsibilities. House Bill (HB) 189 was approved on July 29, 2009 to provide enabling legislation for municipalities to establish energy commissions and to define their purpose and duties. This fact sheet is designed to offer an overview of HB189 and is divided into two sections. "The Basics" covers general questions pertaining to the language of the bill and "Energy Commissions in Real Life" focuses on the bill's implications for energy committees and commissions.



The Basics

What is HB 189?

House Bill 189 is an act enabling municipalities to establish energy commissions. It amends RSA 38 by adding chapter 38-D entitled "Energy Commissions." HB 189 was approved on July 29, 2009 and took effect on September 27, 2009.

How are Energy Commissions adopted?

According to the RSA, any governing or legislative body of a municipality may adopt or rescind an Energy Commission at any appropriately warned meeting. In a municipality with an annual meeting form of government, the governing body is the Board of Selectmen, the school board in a school district, and the board of commissioners in a village district. The legislative body is the assembly of voters at the Town Meeting, School District Meeting, or Village District Meeting.

According to the RSA, what purpose do Energy Commissions serve and what are their duties?

Energy Commissions can be created for the purpose of study, planning, and utilization of energy resources for municipal buildings and built resources. The Commission is charged with researching municipal energy use and costs and making this information available to the town on at least an annual basis. It is also responsible for making recommendations to local boards and committees pertaining to municipal energy plans and sustainable practices, such as energy conservation, energy efficiency, energy generation, and zoning practices.

How many members can serve on an Energy Commission?

Energy Commissions can have anywhere from 3 to 10 members.

How are Energy Commission members selected?

Energy Commission members are appointed to their positions. In cities, appointments are made by the city council and are subject to the provisions of the city charter. In towns, appointments are made by the Board of Selectmen.

Can alternate members be appointed?

Yes.



Photo: Town of Durham, NH

What is the term that Energy Commission members serve?

When an Energy Commission is first established, terms are staggered over 1, 2, and 3 year increments so that roughly 1/3 of the members' terms will expire each year. After that, terms are set for 3 years.

Who can serve on an Energy Commission?

Members must be residents of the city or town that they represent. Membership on another board or commission does not preclude membership on the Energy Commission.

Can funding be appropriated to Energy Commissions?

Once a municipality has formed an Energy Commission, the governing body may appropriate money to the commission to support the purposes and duties outlined in the RSA. Money appropriated to the commission may be placed in a fund and allowed to accumulate from year to year.



Photo: Nashua Regional Planning Commission



Energy Commissions in Real Life

What support is available for Energy Commissions?

A variety of agencies and organizations are available to support Energy Commissions, including the NH Office of Energy and Planning, the regional planning commissions, and non-profits such as Clean Air-Cool Planet. Many of these groups and agencies are part of the Local Energy Committee Working Group, whose mission is to provide support and resources to local energy committees and commissions. To find out more, visit <http://www.carboncoalition.org/>.

Is there a way to ensure that interested members from an Energy Committee are appointed to a newly formed Energy Commission?

Members of an Energy Committee who would like to serve on an Energy Commission should send a letter of interest to their City Council or Board of Selectmen.

What are municipalities doing to encourage their City Councils and Boards of Selectmen to form Energy Commissions?

The NH Community Energy Project website, nhenergy.org, is an excellent resource for energy commissions and committees to learn from one another and find out what is going on across the state. The following is an example from Plymouth. "The Town of Plymouth is working with members of our selectboard and planning board to introduce ourselves as volunteers. We started by sending two representatives from the Plymouth Energy Committee to a town planning board meeting (after requesting ahead of time to be on the agenda for 10 minutes). Those two representatives introduced themselves to the planning board and basi-



cally said "We are interested in volunteering our time to save energy and money in the Town of Plymouth. We would like to work with you to come up with some ways that we can help accomplish that." We intend to slowly but surely establish a positive working relationship with the planning board and selectboard by introducing some simple projects that the energy committee can help with. We have been working with the town planner and have also had a member of the selectboard attend a few of our PEC meetings. Our next step is a presentation to the selectboard at the end of September. We will introduce HB189 to our selectboard. Rep Mary Cooney has volunteered to attend this meeting and help to explain the legislative intent behind HB189. A member of our energy committee is also working on drafting an energy chapter for the town master plan. This is a capstone project as part of a Masters degree in Environmental Science and Policy at Plymouth State."

The RSA only lists two specific duties that the Energy Commissions shall perform. Can the commissions pursue additional activities or are they restricted to those listed in the RSA?

We recommend that you consult your town's legal council for assistance with this matter and discuss it with your local gov-

erning body. Keep in mind that NH is not a home rule state. This means that municipalities only have authority to do what is specifically granted to them by the legislature and cannot exercise authority on their own.

Are Energy Committees equally as eligible for grants and other types of funding as Energy Commissions?

Eligibility varies by grant opportunity. While some funding sources may be willing to accept applications from energy committees, committees do not have non-profit status or the authority to accept funds on behalf of the town. Energy Commissions, on the other hand, are official commissions of the town and therefore have the legal authority to accept funding and the governing structure in place to demonstrate accountability for the funding. We recommend that you consult your town's legal council for additional assistance with this matter and discuss it with your local governing body.

The RSA states that Energy Commissions "shall" perform the listed duties. What legal obligations are volunteer commission members under to ensure the duties are performed?

We recommend you consult your town's legal council for assistance with this matter and discuss it with your local governing body.

What are the benefits to converting from an Energy Committee to an Energy Commission? Are there circumstances in which a municipality would not benefit from establishing an Energy Commission?

Each municipality is different and we recommend that you consult your town's legal council for assistance with this matter and discuss it with your local governing body.

Learn More

This fact sheet was produced by the New Hampshire Local Energy Committee Working Group. It was formed by the Carbon Coalition Steering Committee following the 2007 Town Meetings. The Local Energy Committee Working Group's mission is to provide collaborative guidance and technical support to New Hampshire Local Energy Committees and Commissions seeking to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions within their communities. Please visit our website to learn more: www.carboncoalition.org.

