



ENERGY & CLIMATE COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Wednesday, July 6, 2022, 8:00 AM

City Hall, Second Floor Council Chambers

Members:

Peter Hansel, Chair

Zach Luse, Vice Chair

Diana Duffy

Jake Pipp

Councilor Raleigh Ormerod

Jude Nuru

Paul Roth

Linsey Edmunds

Councilor Bryan Lake

Beth Campbell

Clair Oursler, Alternate

Staff:

Mari Brunner, Senior Planner

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes – June 1, 2022
3. Guest Presentation – Liberty Utilities will present on the company's plans to transition Keene's existing propane-air facility to an alternate fuel source.
4. Community Power Update – Patrick Roche, Good Energy
5. Energy Plan Work Group Report-outs
 - a. Weatherization
 - i. Window Dressers
 - b. Electric Vehicles
 - c. Community Solar
 - d. Renewable Energy Loans
 - e. Outreach and Education
6. New Business
7. Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 – 8:00 am
8. Adjourn

Link to ECC Google Drive Folder:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1O1WIR0fADTNijRt13v3DU7k2FwxXDcGs?usp=sharing>

1 City of Keene
2 New Hampshire

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5 ENERGY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE
6 MEETING MINUTES
7

Wednesday, June 1, 2022

8:00 AM

Council Chambers,
City Hall

Members Present:

Peter Hansel, Chair
Zach Luse, Vice Chair
Councilor Raleigh Ormerod – via Zoom
Councilor Bryan Lake
Jake Pipp
Paul Roth
Clair Oursler, Alternate (Voting)

Staff Present:

Mari Brunner, Senior Planner

Members Not Present:

Jude Nuru
Diana Duffy
Beth Campbell
Linsey Edmunds

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9
10 **1) Call to Order and Roll Call**

11
12 Chair Hansel called the meeting to order at 8:05.

13
14 **2) Approval of Minutes- May 4, 2022**

15
16 Councilor Lake made a motion to approve the minutes of May 4, 2022 as presented. Mr. Luse
17 seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by a roll-call vote.

18
19 **3) Energy Plan Work Group Report-Outs**

20 **A) Weatherization**

21
22 Window Dresser program – Mr. Pipp reported that they have nailed down the dates for
23 the build: October 27-Nov 3. This would include a day of setting up, four to five days of
24 building and a day of clean up. A location has yet to be finalized.

25
26 Nancy Gillard and Caroline Jones put together a Button-up workshop at the Parks and
27 Recreation Department. Nancy Gillard reported that the workshop was not as well
28 attended as she had hoped for, but 14 people came. She added that the presentation was

29 incredibly informative and lasted a little over two hours because of attendee questions
30 (despite a 1.5-hour presentation cap). Everyone who attended is moving forward with an
31 audit, even if they did not meet the home energy index threshold for the NH Saves
32 program. Attendees represented a variety of home types including an owner-occupied
33 multi-family. Bob Eldridge (certified BPI energy auditor), was the presenter and suspects
34 that the index may possibly be changed if they do not have enough people sign up, so the
35 group will be monitoring that. Ms. Gillard discussed the possibility and desire of offering
36 another presentation in September. She reported that Mr. Eldridge was more than happy
37 to come again for September. Scheduling will be discussed at the upcoming
38 Weatherization Committee. Ms. Gillard also mentioned that Robin Adams from the State
39 of New Hampshire Button-Up program contacted her via e-mail the same day about
40 doing a workshop in October for energy week.

41
42 Ms. Gillard reported that she and Ms. Jones have been doing more outreach in regards to
43 the program with Habitat for Humanity, Keene High Interact and a local Boy Scout group
44 looking for volunteers for the week of the build.

45
46 Mr. Luse added that Brattleboro was having a build the week before Keene. Mr. Luse and
47 Mr. Pipp plan to attend and believe it will be useful. They added that the leader of the
48 Brattleboro build has offered to come out and help set up.

49
50 Councilor Ormerod asked if these builds could be put on the City calendar to increase the
51 visibility. Mari Brunner responded that the events can certainly be promoted on the City's
52 social media accounts, but that she would have run through City channels to see if it is
53 okay to put it on the City calendar.

54
55 Peter Hansel applauded the outreach to Interact, but suggested they also appeal to both
56 Rotary clubs for additional volunteers.

57
58 **B) Electric Vehicles**

59
60 Paul Roth reported that they had a short meeting where not much was discussed. They
61 did not have a status update on the Co-op's work, but noted that they have submitted their
62 application. Mr. Roth mentioned they went through the local area to see who has
63 chargers. There are a few local car dealers that have chargers, but otherwise, very few
64 locations.

65
66 Councilor Lake added that he plans to get together with Diana Duffy to continue to work
67 on the EV-Ready Guidelines and hopefully will have something ready in the near future.
68 He reported that Ms. Duffy had mentioned looking up the charging station usage on
69 Commercial Street to get some updated figures. Those figures have not been reviewed
70 since early 2021. Ms. Brunner said she would request that information.

71 Paul Roth noted that Bruce Norlund (EV work group member) had mentioned that Tesla
72 is installing a charging station right over the border in Massachusetts and may be coming
73 out with a universal charger that will not be specific to Tesla.

74
75 Councilor Ormerod mentioned that in personally shopping for vehicles, he learned that
76 some companies are offering installations of 220-volt chargers in the home as part of the
77 purchase deal. Councilor Ormerod questioned whether a survey had been done of the
78 local dealers for who is participating in that program?

79
80 Mr. Luse mentioned that the EPA has a huge pile of money for electric busses and
81 suggested the work group look into it. He said he is uncertain of how the money would
82 work given that First Student owns the busses, but believed that it was up to \$370,000 per
83 bus to switch it out. Chair Hansel suggested that the article be forwarded to the EV work
84 group.

85
86 Jake Pipp added to Mr. Luse's mentioned of the EPA funding. The EPA has a significant
87 amount of money set aside (roughly \$5 Billion) over the next five years. This fiscal year,
88 \$500,000,000 has been allocated to it for electric school buses and applications are
89 already open. Over the next four years, there will be 4.5 Billion dollars for electric school
90 busses across the country. There has not been a huge push for it in the past, but he is
91 hoping that this large sum of money will provide some additional motivation for
92 revisiting the idea.

93
94 Councilor Ormerod mentioned that First Student is headquartered in Ohio, but there is a
95 local representative. He saw the last contract that was signed and was disappointed that
96 there was no mention of alternative fuel sources/options. Councilor Ormerod mentioned
97 that Kris Roberts runs the infrastructure committee for the school and offered to send him
98 the minutes (once published) and ask him to review. When Councilor Ormerod re-
99 engages the school district, he will ask again to bring more visibility to the issue.
100 Chair Hansel thanked Councilor Ormerod for being the point person on that.

101
102 **C) Community Solar**

103
104 Chair Hansel reported that the last work group meeting was short, but they discussed the
105 potential solar sites and he volunteered to check on their status. Afterwards, he contacted
106 Andy Bohannon and got information on three sites.

107
108 Site 1- Behind Ashuelot park- this site is moving along. The property is privately owned
109 so information is somewhat limited, but Andy has been working with the owners to
110 ensure the solar part of that plan is moving forward.

111

112 Site 2 - Rose Lane/Street- This property definitely has excellent potential for solar. The
113 property used to be a landfill and is a nice square lot with no trees. Plans are moving
114 forward on that property.

115
116 Site 3 - Monadnock View Cemetery/Cedarcrest – There is a zoning issue on this site that
117 would not allow for solar installation. Ms. Brunner clarified that the property is currently
118 zoned “Conservation” (a zoning district in Keene that does not allow solar energy
119 systems as a principal permitted use). The property has not been ruled out as there are
120 some potential options, but the current zoning has presented a challenge.

121
122 **D) Renewable Energy Loans**

123 Chair Hansel reported that work group met last Wednesday. He was the sole attendee due
124 to conflicts. Chris Cusack took notes and they had a little discussion between themselves.
125 The main objective was to meet with another bank, namely Savings Bank of Walpole
126 (SBW). Peter met with a rep at SBW and had similar results as with Mascoma. SBW
127 does have options, but they are not made as public as has been done with Mascoma.
128 Energy efficient or solar loans are available; SBW is particularly interested in working
129 with this group or City in General and also interested in Commercial loans. Currently, the
130 committee is still in the information-gathering stage and as a group working on
131 workgroup goals and mission.

132
133 Ms. Brunner reported that she spoke with the program director for Milwaukee Shines.
134 She recorded the interview and uploaded it to the Committee’s Google Drive. She noted
135 that the program actually started out as an energy efficiency loan program, and they were
136 able to work out the kinks before expanding to solar energy. She said she was encouraged
137 to hear that because the ECC has discussed broadening the scope of this program to
138 energy efficiency in addition to renewable energy, so it is good to see that has already
139 been done elsewhere.

140
141 **E) Outreach and Education**

142 Mr. Luse mentioned that they had an initial meeting trying to figure out the path forward
143 and focus points. They identified the need for a central hub for everything that the City,
144 the committee and the people of the city are doing to work towards our energy goal. They
145 discussed whether that should be a section of the city’s website or building out the energy
146 plan website and plan to reach out to IT for assistance. They are still investigating the
147 possibilities and determining the pros and cons of each option.

148
149 Ms. Duffy said she would be reaching out to Pinnacle Windows on their work on two of
150 the churches in town to develop a success story to eventually promote on the website and
151 in social media.

152

153 Chair Hansel suggested not looking at this as re-creating the wheel. He suggested
154 considering using articles written by other groups in the region and using the website as a
155 repository for those.

156

157 Councilor Ormerod understood we will not change the content of energy plan, but asked
158 Mr. Luse to explain more about the potential vision for the energy plan website. Mr. Luse
159 said they are in the visioning stage and will report back when they have a proposal.

160

161 **F) NH Saves Workshop Debrief**

162 Ms. Gillard shared that she received clarification on the two-family home issue. If a two-
163 family home has two meters and both are paid independently, two applications would
164 need to be submitted for the same property. She also mentioned that the food pantry is
165 willing to put information into the food boxes to assist with getting the information out to
166 the desired populations.

167

168 Chair Hansel mentioned that while the Realtors Association was not on the agenda, it
169 related to Mike Metell and his work with the Home Energy Labeling effort (one of the
170 past ECC work groups). The Monadnock Realtors Association meets regularly and they
171 have invited a member of this committee to attend and present on Home Energy
172 Labeling. This is being discussed and provides opportunity for a future work group.

173

174 **4) Community Power Update**

175

176 Chair Hansel mentioned that there is a Roundtable Discussion planned for June 7th at 5 pm at
177 Heberton Hall. The idea is to give communities in the region the ability to report out and learn
178 from each other on the status of community power plans. Currently he (Peter Hansel), Mari
179 Brunner, Ann Shedd, and Jude Nuru are registered for Keene. The event does require advanced
180 registration.

181

182 Mari Brunner added that one to two days after the roundtable, the city should hear back from
183 the PUC on its Community Power Plan. The Community Power rules should be put out soon
184 afterwards. If no action is taken on Keene's plan, it will be automatically deemed approved, but
185 the city still cannot launch until the rules are put into place.

186

187 Chair Hansel asked if there was an idea of how many communities plan to attend. Ms. Brunner
188 was unsure. Chair Hansel stated he was aware that Harrisville had also applied for approval of
189 their community power plan. Ms. Brunner added that Harrisville was the next community after
190 Keene to approve and they will likely hear more about it at the roundtable.

191

192 **5) Legislative Updates**

193

194 No legislative updates to report.

195

196 **6) Next meeting: Wednesday July 6, 2022- 8:00am**

197

198 Chair Hansel asked the committee whether to meet on July 6th. Councilor Ormerod was in
199 support to attempt to reduce loss of current momentum, especially as City Council will be going
200 on vacation in August. Chair Hansel was in agreement.

201

202 **7) Adjournment**

203

204 There being no further business, Chair Hansel adjourned the meeting at 8:59 AM.

205

206 Respectfully submitted by,
207 Amanda Trask, Minute Taker

208

209 Reviewed and edited by,
210 Mari Brunner, Senior Planner