



## ENERGY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE (ECC)

### AGENDA

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

8:00 AM

City Hall,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Council Chambers

#### **Members:**

Zach Luse, Chair  
Paul Roth, Vice Chair  
Diana Duffy  
Jake Pipp  
Councilor Raleigh Ormerod  
Jude Nuru  
Peter Hansel  
Clair Oursler  
Kenneth Swymer

Councilor Bryan Lake  
Lisa Maxfield  
Chuck Redfern, Alternate  
Rowland Russell, Alternate  
Michael Winograd, Alternate

#### **Staff:**

Mari Brunner, Senior Planner

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes – October 4, 2023
3. ECC Fall Retreat De-brief and Continued Work Group Discussions: Food Security, Legislative Tracking, and Education & Outreach
4. ECC Work Group Report Outs
  - a. Community Solar
  - b. Grants, Fundraising, and Partnerships
  - c. Education and Outreach
  - d. Legislative Tracking
  - e. Food Security
5. Keene Energy Week De-Brief
6. Lower Winchester Street Project ([www.LowerWinchesterStreetProject.com](http://www.LowerWinchesterStreetProject.com))
7. Letter Regarding NH DOT Route 101 Road Project
8. Community Power Program update
9. Committee Membership
10. Climate Café Event – November 16 at 6:30 pm, Keene Public Library, Heberton Hall
11. New Business
12. Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 – 8:00 am
13. 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, October 4, 2023

8:00 AM

Council Chambers,  
City Hall

Members Present:

Zach Luse, Chair  
Paul Roth, Vice Chair  
Councilor Bryan Lake  
Peter Hansel  
Jake Pipp  
Jude Nuru  
Lisa Maxfield, Alternate (Voting)  
Rowland Russell, Alternate (Voting)  
Charles Redfern, Alternate (Voting)

Staff Present:

Mari Brunner, Senior Planner

Members Not Present:

Councilor Raleigh Ormerod  
Kenneth Swymer, Alternate  
Diana Duffy  
Clair Oursler

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

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12 Chair Luse called the meeting to order at 8:01am.

13  
14 Ms. Mari Brunner informed the committee that Ms. Diana Duffy would not be attending.

15  
16 Following roll call, Chair Luse invited alternates Dr. Rowland Russell, Mr. Chuck Redfern and  
17 Ms. Lisa Maxfield to participate as voting members.

18  
19 **2) Approval of Minutes**

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21 Chair Luse invited any discussion of the minutes. With no discussion, Chair Luse requested a  
22 motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Peter Hansel moved to approve the minutes with second  
23 from Mr. Jude Nuru. With unanimous approval, the September minutes were approved.

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25 **3) ECC Work Group report-outs**

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**A) Community Solar**

Mr. Jude Nuru updated and said most of their work has been focused on identification of potential sites. With the goal of trying to increase solar use in the community, they plan to start a community solar buddy program in which those who have implemented will be paired with those who are interested. This would be primarily for commercial sites. The hope is that if it is successful, they will expand to include farmers and larger commercial sites. Chair Luse was in support of the idea and shared that he did a similar educational webinar for Keene Energy Week explaining available financing, grants, and incentives and how it inspired a few solar projects.

Mr. Redfern shared that he has started preliminary discussions with a few people in town regarding the dormant Kingsbury property and some of its land that is not being used. He plans to keep the committee updated on that. Dr. Russell asked Mr. Redfern to keep him in the loop as there was a large grass swath that Antioch was looking at for potential community gardens. Mr. Nuru thanked Mr. Redfern and shared that this was something they had previously discussed but did not know the right person to contact and was glad he was moving forward with it. Mr. Redfern shared that the landowner had been forced by the city to pay back taxes, which was a significant sum of money. As a result, the landowner has a soreness for city government. By going through a citizen's group headed by the MEDC (Monadnock Economic Development Corporation), he is hoping the landowner will be more receptive to discussions. Dr. Russell noted that MEDC does have a million dollar grant for abatement of Brownfield's and is still available as far as he knows.

**B) Legislative Tracking**

Councilor Bryan Lake explained that the legislative group did not submit an update, but wanted to share that they had a very short meeting because of losing Ms. Beth Campbell and the rest of the group having other commitments. They are currently looking at tracking some of what the public utilities commission is doing this fall. There are some important meetings coming up on topics like New Hampshire Saves and budgetary items, so they are currently focusing on that, but also wanted to make note that since Ms. Campbell left, they do have an opening on the legislative work group. He welcomed anyone interested in joining them.

**C) Grants, Fundraising, and partnerships**

Mr. Redfern explained that they attempted to meet but did not receive enough responses on a scheduling poll. They are still working on scheduling it and it looks like they will likely need to do it after hours to accommodate everyone.

Chair Luse asked if there were any thoughts or direction on the fellowship versus trying to get a city employee either part-time or full-time. Dr. Russell explained that they are not mutually exclusive, and that Antioch has some internal funding available for non-work study funding. It is

69 not significant and tends to be a combination of organization sponsored, grant funding or tuition  
70 reduction. Chair Luse noted that they are rapidly approaching the budget deadline for putting  
71 anything before the council. Dr. Russell stated that the expectation is that they would not be  
72 looking to the city for funding.

73

74 **D) Food Security**

75

76 Dr. Russell shared that he had a few additional items since he had posted the work group notes.  
77 They have identified several city-controlled plots for potential community garden sites and have  
78 a meeting with some of their organization partners tomorrow to identify an organizational  
79 sponsor that would then allow them to look at crafting an agreement on useful sites.

80

81 The second update he had was that he was reaching out to Michael Faber and additional staff  
82 with the Monadnock Food Coop to determine their willingness to host as another focus area for  
83 the workgroup is local sourcing for markets, food entrepreneurship and restaurants.

84

85 **E) Education and Outreach**

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87 Chair Luse said he was keeping education and outreach update for the next item as it was all  
88 Keene Energy Week.

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90

91 **4) Keene Energy Week**

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93 Chair Luse shared that the schedule is up on the website, but they do have a few things in the  
94 works. The first couple of things on the schedule have already happened such as the Monadnock  
95 Clean Energy Fair.

96

97 Mr. Peter Hansel shared that he was there for a few hours and was very impressed with the  
98 number of people that were there and the number of vendors in attendance. He thought it was a  
99 good model and one that would be good to use for this group. There were about 24-25 privately  
100 owned electrical vehicles there. Bruce Norlund, Keene, shared there were at least 20 electric  
101 vehicles at the fair in Peterborough. There was a company called Green Wave that brought two  
102 used electric vehicles. They are in North Hampton, and they are the only company with used  
103 electric vehicles that he has seen. Chair Luse thanked Mr. Norlund and Mr. Hansel for the  
104 update.

105

106 Chair Luse mentioned that the climate café was last night, but he has not received an update as to  
107 how that went. On October 19<sup>th</sup>, they are planning on the Mayor reading the proclamation at the  
108 City Council Meeting. On Pumpkin Festival Day, October 21<sup>st</sup>, they are tabling in front of City  
109 Hall to get the word out about Keene Energy Week, community power and the energy plan. He  
110 encouraged people to look up the schedule and try to attend some of the events.

111 They are also working on a Wednesday evening Electric Vehicle 101 presentation and are  
112 investigating locations right now. The Clean Energy Team is again doing the virtual solar tour.  
113 The ECC retreat is next week, and on the 28<sup>th</sup> they will be doing the energy expo in Railroad  
114 Square.

115  
116 Chair Luse thought they were having trouble finding electric vehicles for that event, but Ms. Lisa  
117 Maxfield shared that she has four electric vehicles coming to that event so far (a Subaru, a  
118 Volvo, a Ford truck, and a Ford sedan). Ms. Maxfield said while talking to the police officer in  
119 charge of security details, he suggested that they block off the road. Chair Luse said last year  
120 they just bagged the meters in front of Local Burger and Railroad Square, and they left space  
121 between them. She clarified that they put the vehicles on Main Street rather than Railroad, which  
122 Chair Luse confirmed.

123  
124 Chair Luse said they are working on vendors and tabling groups; they have Green Energy  
125 Options coming as a vendor. They are reaching out to Froling and Bergeron as well.

126  
127 Mr. Hansel said Peterborough had a couple of workshops at their Energy Fair. He attended one  
128 on heat pumps but did not remember the topic of the other. They seemed to be well-attended and  
129 might be why some of the vendors were there since they were presenting.

130  
131 Chair Luse said there will be an electric vehicle presentation on Wednesday, and they are  
132 working on trying to schedule an in person or webinar presentation with the sustainability hub  
133 for IRA incentives.

134  
135 Mr. Nuru asked if vendors needed to be from the Monadnock Area, Chair Luse responded that  
136 any vendors that do work within the region would be welcome. Chair Luse suggested letting him  
137 know if any vendors express interest. The Expo will be from 11 am – 2 pm.

138  
139 They are looking for volunteers to help table at the Pumpkin Festival from 2-5pm and again at  
140 Railroad Square the following Saturday. If interested, please reach out to him. Mr. Roth asked if  
141 they had handouts to which Chair Luse said he had not gotten that far. He plans to reach out to  
142 the marketing person in the City of Keene to see if she can help gather materials.

143  
144 Ms. Brunner said they do have the survey postcards for the electric vehicle plan that the city  
145 engineer spoke about in the August meeting. She has not received them, but she will have those  
146 to hand out to people. She noted that the City will be doing two surveys, one through Flash Vote  
147 for residents only that will only be up for 48 hours, and a broader survey for both Keene  
148 residents and people from other towns – the latter is the survey linked on the postcards.

149  
150 Mr. Redfern asked how many people they need, of which Mr. Luse said they currently have two  
151 and would like three people at a time. Councilor Bryan Lake said he should be available that day  
152 and asked to be informed of the times available. He suggested people sign up for Flash Vote for  
153 those who have not already done so.

154 Ms. Maxfield asked if they would have the schedule for the clean energy week activities for the  
155 Pumpkin Festival. Chair Luse responded that they will have the QR code with the schedule.

156

157 **5) Fall Retreat**

158

159 Chair Luse hopes to dive more in depth into the work group strategy and plan for the next six  
160 months and asked people to be thinking about that over the next few weeks. They would like to  
161 get an idea of who will attend the whole thing and need to figure out food. Potluck will be the  
162 easiest and he is hoping to have someone willing to organize that. Ms. Brunner offered to send  
163 out a sign-up for the potluck.

164

165 Mr. Nuru said he signed up for the energy retreat, but had a conflict come up and regretfully will  
166 not be able to attend.

167

168 Dr. Russell put forth a request for a ride as he had a meeting and would not be able to walk in  
169 time. Mr. Jake Pipp offered a ride.

170

171 Chair Luse asked if anyone would be able to attend. Ms. Maxfield said she could not attend. Mr.  
172 Hansel, Mr. Roth, Mr. Redfern all responded that they should be able to attend.

173

174 **6) NH DOT Correspondence**

175

176 Ms. Brunner explained that the Municipal Services Facilities and Infrastructure Committee heard  
177 a presentation from Clough Harbor about this project. She sent out the recording which gave an  
178 overview of the project and their plan for outreach. It sounds like there will be future  
179 opportunities for input. She believed there was some time to sit on it for a few months and there  
180 was no huge rush.

181

182 Dr. Russell explained that it was also forwarded to the BPPAC committee. They wanted to make  
183 sure that whatever plans are proposed not interfere with the work that will be happening with the  
184 Transportation Heritage Trail.

185

186 Mr. Redfern said Don Lussier wants to mesh or integrate these plans, allowing it to get into the  
187 ten-year plan. The state can insert their highway improvements. It would be great if this  
188 committee could draft a letter of support. It would be addressed to Cindy Warmington, the  
189 executive councilor, and Bill Lambert Jr. at the Department of Transportation. Mr. Redfern can  
190 get the contact information and is willing to work on the skeleton part of the letter. Chair Luse  
191 asked if the BPPAC was also submitting a letter to which Mr. Redfern and Dr. Russel believed  
192 they were.

193

194 Chair Luse said he wanted to find a tie-in for their committee to which Dr. Russell said the tie in  
195 would be carbon footprint reduction by encouraging multimodal transportation. Mr. Hansel said  
196 it would also result in less congestion.

197 Mr. Hansel shared that when Friends of Open Spaces existed years ago, they were looking at the  
198 space around the Stone Arch Bridge. That land is privately owned by the Graves family he  
199 believed, but that was always on the radar for a potential park. He said he did not see that as a  
200 site for this project but said there could be potential there.

201

202 Dr. Russell said another tie-in for this group would be the corridor from the Coop all the way  
203 over the bridge and how that area could use solar lighting like on Appel Way. Mr. Redfern  
204 believed the land mentioned by Mr. Hansel was likely not included because it was private land.  
205 Mr. Redfern made a motion that if there was a time constraint, the chair would be authorized to  
206 send a letter on behalf of the committee. If there is not a time constraint, the letter is to be  
207 submitted to the committee to review and comment. Dr. Russell seconded the motion. All  
208 members except for Ms. Lisa Maxfield voted in favor of the motion.

209

210 Ms. Brunner asked if everyone included everything everyone wanted to address. Mr. Hansel said  
211 the main issues are bicycle access/multimodal access and the impact on climate such as carbon  
212 emissions.

213

214 Ms. Maxfield said she voted no as it [the trail] goes behind her house. The lighting would be  
215 disruptive, and increased traffic is not desired.

216

#### 217 **7) Community Power**

218

219 Ms. Brunner reminded folks that last month, she had mentioned that they would be doing a  
220 “sweep”. They had their initial launch in June. Every few months, they do another sweep and  
221 pick up new people that have moved into the community or changed addresses to bring into the  
222 program. Those people then go through the same process of receiving a letter where they have an  
223 opportunity to leave the program. If they do not exercise that right, they are automatically  
224 enrolled in the program. If they are on a third-party supplier, they get the opt in letter. This  
225 sweep was supposed to happen in September, but now is planned for October due to delays in  
226 getting data from Eversource.

227

228 She also announced that there will be another Climate Café that the Clean Energy Team is  
229 organizing in November on the 16<sup>th</sup>. It will be at the Keene Public Library in the evening to talk  
230 about community power.

231

#### 232 **8) Committee Membership**

233

234 Chair Luse reminded the group that they have one term that expired and two terms coming up  
235 that will be expiring. They have three alternate spots open. Michael Winegrad is in the process of  
236 being appointed and it should be formalized tomorrow. Ms. Maxfield is moving up to fill the  
237 spot left by Ms. Campbell.

238

239 Mr. Hansel has more than served two full terms. Mr. Pipp will also be expiring. There is  
240 certainly interest for people wanting to join if individuals did not desire to continue. If the term is  
241 expiring, the city will send a letter to which they can respond with their interest to continue. It  
242 maxes out at two terms for members, but alternates can continue to serve past two terms.  
243 Mr. Pipp asked if there was an opportunity for members to continue as either community  
244 members on work groups or to change to alternate. Ms. Brunner said they could do either, but it  
245 will also depend on the new mayor.

246

247 **9) New Business**

248

249 Chair Luse said Southwest Region Planning Commission was having their quarterly meeting on  
250 Tuesday October 10<sup>th</sup>. They invited him, but he cannot attend and asked if there were any  
251 representatives that want to attend and to let him or Ms. Brunner know if they wish to attend.  
252 This is their annual meeting, and their topic is climate resilience. Ms. Brunner will send the  
253 information to the whole committee.

254

255 Ms. Brunner also said the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services is seeking  
256 input on their plans to go after an electric vehicle grant. They will be having listening sessions  
257 today and she suggested anyone interested can join virtually at noon or at 7pm or they can also  
258 submit comments online through October 6<sup>th</sup>.

259

260 Councilor Bryan Lake suggested looking at whether they want to put in any recommendations  
261 for the Winchester Street project and Ms. Brunner said if there is still time to submit input, she  
262 will put it on the agenda for the next meeting.

263

264

265 **10) Adjournment**

266

267 There being no further business, Chair Luse adjourned the meeting at \_\_\_\_ AM.

268

269 Respectfully submitted by,  
270 Amanda Trask, Minute Taker

271

272 Reviewed and edited by,  
273 Mari Brunner, Senior Planner





## ECC Work Group Monthly report-out form

INSTRUCTIONS: Please fill out this form no later than the Monday of the week before the ECC meeting and email to Mari at [mbrunner@keenenh.gov](mailto:mbrunner@keenenh.gov). If you have any supporting materials to share with the ECC (e.g. completed grant application, letter to the editor draft, articles/reports to share, etc.), please attach them to the email.

1. Name of Work Group: Community Solar
2. Date(s) that the work group met this month: 10/11/2023
3. Recommendation(s)  
*(List any requested actions here. If no action is needed, you can put "informational")*

Informational

4. Monthly Update  
*(describe any topics the work group discussed, any activities/actions that were taken, guest speakers you heard from, research conducted, etc. here)*

1. We discussed liaising with the Monadnock Sustainability Hub to help publicize the solar buddy program.
2. Two of our Work Group members who are on Hannah Grimes board are to work on bringing onboard interested businesses to participate in the solar buddy program.
3. We also discussed working with the Greater Keene and Peterborough Chamber of Commerce to co-host a solar coaching event.
4. We discussed the intention of the owners of the land behind the Mascoma Bank to rezone it for commercial use which would allow a solar carport to be developed there, which could become a model to be replicated on city-owned parking lots.
5. Finally, we discussed working with city staff to identify rooftop sites for the upcoming 60kW state solar grant for NH municipalities.

Action Items: We then discussed the following action items:

1. Reach out to the Monadnock Sustainability Hub to get help on publicizing the solar buddy program.
2. Two of our Work Group members to contact Hannah Grimes on bringing interested businesses onboard.
3. Reach out to the Chamber of Commerce regarding a solar buddy event.



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1. Name of Work Group: Education and Outreach
2. Date(s) that the work group met this month: 10/4 & 10/17
3. Recommendation(s)  
*(List any requested actions here. If no action is needed, you can put "informational")*

Informational

4. Monthly Update  
*(describe any topics the work group discussed, any activities/actions that were taken, guest speakers you heard from, research conducted, etc. here)*

Discussions this month were related to planning Keene Energy Week.



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1. Name of Work Group: Legislative Tracking
2. Date(s) that the work group met this month: N/A
3. Recommendation(s)  
*(List any requested actions here. If no action is needed, you can put "informational")*  
  
Informational
4. Monthly Update  
*(describe any topics the work group discussed, any activities/actions that were taken, guest speakers you heard from, research conducted, etc. here)*

NH Department of Energy has put together an informal e-mail list to inform individuals & communities about federal funding opportunities. Bryan has reached out to be included on this distribution list.

NH Department of Environmental Sciences sought public input on electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the state. They have applied for funding through NEVI's Charging & Fueling Infrastructure program. If awarded, the intent is to use the funds for downtown communities, multi-unit dwellings, rural locations, transit hubs, and tourist attractions guided by the public input. There were public input sessions on October 26th virtually. We'll try to get recordings of these.



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1. Name of Work Group: Food Security
2. Date(s) that the work group met this month: 10/11, 10/20
3. Recommendation(s)  
*(List any requested actions here. If no action is needed, you can put "informational")*  
  
Informational
4. Monthly Update  
*(describe any topics the work group discussed, any activities/actions that were taken, guest speakers you heard from, research conducted, etc. here)*

Updates:

\* 10/11: Conducted a "mini-focus group" on the impact of climate change on Keene's food security with about a dozen area alums from Antioch (many of whom are involved locally in food systems work. Followup on several topics raised will occur; viability of a regional food hub, potential for agrovoltaic projects to benefit local farmers, and circular city concept applied to food security.

\* 10/20: Met with Southwest Region Planning Commission's Regional Food Assessment committee, who will collaborate with our Food Security Work Group on upcoming focus groups on Local Sourcing (December), Climate Resilience for Farmers (January), Agricultural Land Conservation (February) and Farm Markets (March). We hope to collaborate with Monadnock Sustainability Hub for a Climate Cafe in April featuring an "idea jam" on food security/food systems. SWRPC received a grant to undertake this work, which will allow the potential for greater outreach and deeper research while limiting replication of effort between the 2 groups.

\* Surveys being administered to local agencies serving the food insecure will be due by the second week of November, then results discussed at MFCC's November Food Alliance meeting as our focus group on this topic.

\* Discussions continue with the city on possible additional community garden sites on city-managed parcels in Keene.