



## **ENERGY & CLIMATE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA**

Wednesday, November 4, 2020, 8:00 AM

**Virtual Zoom Meeting**

### **TO JOIN THE MEETING:**

The public may join the meeting online by visiting [www.zoom.us/join](http://www.zoom.us/join) or by calling the toll-free # (888) 475-4499 and entering the Meeting ID: **860 6322 7039**. If you encounter any issues accessing this meeting, please call 603-209-4697 during the meeting. More info on how to access this meeting is available on the Energy and Climate Committee webpage at [ci.keene.nh.us/energy-and-climate-committee](http://ci.keene.nh.us/energy-and-climate-committee).

### **Members:**

Dr. Ann Shedd, Chair  
Peter Hansel, Vice Chair  
Terry Clark, Councilor  
Jake Pipp  
Ken Dooley  
Cary Gaunt

Anna Schierioth  
Rod Bouchard  
Andrew Dey  
Zach Luse  
Paul Roth, alternate

### **Staff:**

Rhett Lamb, ACM/Community Development Director  
Mari Brunner, Planner

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Approval of October 7, 2020 Meeting Minutes
3. Energy Plan\*
  - a. October 20 Virtual Forum Debrief
  - b. Feedback from Public
  - c. Draft Sustainable Energy Plan
  - d. Next Steps
4. Updates from Andy Bohannon, Parks and Recreation Director
  - a. Human Rights Committee Proposal re: Committee Nominations
  - b. City Energy Services Contract with Honeywell
5. Community Power Update
6. New Business
7. Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 2, 2020
8. Adjourn

*\*To view draft energy plan documents, please visit the Energy and Climate Committee Google Drive folder:  
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1O1WIR0fADTNijRt13v3DU7k2FxxXDcGs?usp=sharing>*

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## ENERGY & CLIMATE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 7, 2020, 8:00 AM, Online (Zoom)

### Members:

Dr. Ann Shedd, Chair  
 Peter Hansel, Vice Chair  
 Terry Clark, Councilor  
 Jake Pipp  
 Ken Dooley  
 Andrew Dey  
 Zach Luse  
 Paul Roth, alternate

### Members not present:

Cary Gaunt  
 Anna Schierioth  
 Rod Bouchard

### Staff:

Rhett Lamb, ACM/Community Development  
 Director  
 Mari Brunner, Planner

### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Dr. Shedd called the meeting to order at 8:00 am. She read a prepared statement explaining how Emergency Order #12, issued by the Governor of the State of New Hampshire, pursuant to Executive Order #2020-04, gives authority for public meetings to be held remotely and shared information about how members of the public can listen and share comments. Roll call was conducted.

### 2. Approval of September 2, 2020 Meeting Minutes

*Vice Chair Hansel moved to accept the September 2, 2020 minutes with revisions, Mr. Roth seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.*

*Revisions as follows:*

Page 2 of 3, the third line of the second to last paragraph change “*net energy produced outside of our region to inside of our region.*”

### 3. Energy Plan

#### a) October 20 Virtual Forum

Ms. Brunner announced that she has created a draft program and has been performing community outreach for the October 20 virtual forum and Mayor Hansel is available to do some opening remarks. She said she has reached out to Mr. John Balfe from the

Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP); he presented to ECC in the last year or so and will be in attendance. She said she also has been in contact with Ms. Brianna Brand from Clean Energy NH and Drive Electric NH, as well as representatives from Good Energy and Standard Power who will also be in attendance. She stated that these individuals will be available as a resource for the three breakout sessions.

Ms. Brunner stated that the start time for the agenda will be 6 pm and the program will end by 8 pm. She said they are asking people to register in advance and choose a breakout session so she can assign people to each breakout room. She stated that they will start with a Welcome statement at 6 pm (perhaps led by Dr. Shedd or Mr. Lamb) and then have Mayor Hansel do the Opening remarks. She said then they will segue into an overview of the Energy Plan and the four pathways, which include reducing energy, generating energy and energy storage, as well as procuring renewable energy to meet remaining demands and ongoing advocacy and information-sharing. They will also provide a brief overview of the three priority strategies that will be discussed during the breakout sessions, so everyone is acquainted with the topics of the three sessions. She stated that they will then segue into the breakout sessions which will be 50 minutes in duration. Once those are completed, they will host breakout room report outs on the main Zoom screen. She stated that each breakout session will have a staff person to help take notes and manage the Zoom platform and there will also be a facilitator present in each session who can share in those responsibilities. Ms. Brunner stated that the forum will end with Closing remarks and Next Steps. For this portion, someone can wrap up the session for the evening and discuss next steps for the plan.

Dr. Shedd suggested that in the overview of the energy plan that staff leave a couple of minutes to address the process in developing the plan. For example, ECC involvement, the focus groups and stakeholder groups to demonstrate to attendees that the public has been involved in the process. Ms. Brunner will add slides on the planning process and public outreach and engagement activities to the presentation.

Ms. Brunner stated that Mr. Roth and Mr. Bouchard are facilitating the Community Power session. She said there will also be representatives from Standard Power and Good Energy present to serve as a resource, as well as a staff person to help take notes and manage the Zoom platform.

Mr. Pipp and Mr. Dey will facilitate the Home Energy Labeling and Benchmarking session. She said that Mr. John Balfe from NEEP will serve as the resource to discuss what Home Energy Labeling and Benchmarking are, as well as a staff person to manage the Zoom platform. She said Mr. Balfe would have more of a presentation role as he is an expert in the topic.

Dr. Shedd and Mr. Hansel will serve as facilitators for the Electric Vehicles session. She said Ms. Brand from the Clean Energy NH group will participate in this session, and she reached out to Mr. John Kondos who is on the Board of the Monadnock Sustainability Hub and also drives an EV and has been involved in Drive Electric events locally. She reached out to him last night and has not heard back yet from him. Dr. Shedd stated that

Mr. Kondos has also been involved in utilizing the Volkswagen diesel settlement money for installing a fast charger and level 2 charger at the Monadnock Co-Op, which can bring a good perspective to local infrastructure development.

Ms. Brunner asked if members can confirm their roles as facilitators for each session as described. Dr. Shedd also encouraged other committee members to distribute themselves among the groups. Particularly anyone who is currently an EV owner to join the EV discussion with Vice Chair Hansel and herself.

Ms. Brunner stated that there are currently three people who have registered for the event as they are encouraging early registration so that she can preassign people to breakout sessions. She encouraged anyone who is interested in attending to please register early and also share the Facebook event with their contacts and networks. Dr. Shedd asked if facilitators should register and Ms. Brunner replied yes, registration is required and it will make it easier for her to assign people to breakout rooms. Ms. Brunner stated that the information about how to join the meeting entails that facilitators register ahead of time by clicking on a link where they can choose a breakout session. Dr. Shedd stated that at ECC meetings, the public is muted, so facilitators will need to know what to expect in terms of fielding questions and comments from the public. Ms. Brunner agreed that the format is very different than the ECC Zoom webinars as all attendees are muted. She said that Zoom does not have breakout rooms for webinars so the format will be a Zoom Meeting format. Ms. Brunner said she will send out a briefing on how to manage the Zoom Meeting format before October 20.

Ms. Brunner stated as the moderator, she will be able to move people around from breakout rooms and that she will allow five minutes of transition time and an additional five minutes for introductions. However, for the Community Power and Home Energy and Labeling sessions she has planned for a fifteen-minute topic overview. She said she left ten minutes for a Q&A session, as well as a facilitated discussion and feedback time where each facilitator can ask guiding questions to participants, mostly with respect to implementation of strategies in Keene. For example, for the EV session, facilitators can ask people if they have considered owning an EV and what the barriers are to ownership, where they would like to see a charging station, etc. She said this is information that will be helpful for them in developing the Energy Plan, Ms. Brunner stated that at 7:30 they will transition back to the main room, provide closing remarks and introduce next steps.

Ms. Brunner asked if the breakout room structure sounds good to everybody. Vice Chair Hansel stated yes. Mr. Dey asked if the breakout rooms will be recorded. Ms. Brunner replied that she is not sure, and that the main room will be recorded, but the breakout rooms may not be. However, they will have a notetaker at each session. Ms. Gaunt commented that the structure looks great, however, asked in the event there is a group with lots of questions, how will they handle unanswered questions. Ms. Brunner said there is a section on the Energy Plan website to submit questions, so they can provide the link to participants to submit comments that do not get addressed during the forums. She asked if that sounds like a good way to address additional questions. Ms. Gaunt agreed and said providing the link at the forum will be key in actually having people submit

questions, rather than expecting them to do so at a later date. Mr. Roth also suggested referring to the website as a real-life example if one of the sessions are not lively to enforce the community involvement portion of their strategy. Ms. Brunner agreed and stated that the Q&A session is aimed at increasing participation as well with guiding questions to help promote conversations. Dr. Shedd asked how the guiding questions can be geared towards community scale instead of individual interest, for example, structuring questions to include system-oriented input rather than individual oriented questions for the implementation. Ms. Brunner replied that she has not yet crafted the guiding questions and encouraged members to submit their own guiding questions drafts by October 14.

Ms. Brunner said that facilitators will receive presentation slides and a draft list of guiding questions at some point next week. Mr. Dey agreed and said that would be helpful in communicating with co-facilitators on their roles during the forum.

b) Virtual forum community outreach

Ms. Brunner said the video for the outreach and promotion for the forum was shared with Cheshire TV and other social media outlets. She said there is a Facebook event which should be shared over social media and encouraged members to do so as this is the last opportunity to receive public feedback for the plan. She said they also put posters and flyers in business spaces downtown, the Rotary Clubs and the Clean Energy Team is working on a vinyl sign to put over their sign at the bank. They have also put out multiple posts on social media and the announcement is included in the October Energy month promotional materials as well. She stated that 90 people have subscribed to the Energy Plan and she will send promotional materials out to that web page as well. She said they are also considering attending Mayor Hansel's radio program the Saturday before the forum to get the word out to a different audience. Ms. Brunner said she will check in with Mayor Hansel to see if he has a space for that Saturday. Dr. Shedd asked if the 90 people who have signed up include the people who participated in the community conversations and focus groups. MS. Brunner said it only included those that registered online, but for the ones that were not pre-register events, she has not had time to transcribe the handwritten list into an Excel sheet yet to add those emails to the list.

Dr. Shedd stated that Ms. Gaunt had mentioned performing outreach through the CALL program on the Keene State College (KSC) campus. Ms. Gaunt replied that she did reach out to the contacts for that program, however, the CALL program for the fall is full and the earliest they can do something is towards the middle or end of December or next semester which might be too late. Dr. Shedd said that the CALL newsletter sometimes includes events of interest from the community that are not strictly a part of the CALL program. Ms., Gaunt said that she can reach out to them just to advertise the forum through their email list. She asked if they would still be interested in doing a 2-3-hour class through the CALL program at a later date. Dr. Shedd stated that some general education about the Energy Plan and Community Power Plan would be very useful. Ms., Gaunt said that she will then ask program coordinators to advertise the virtual forum and then set up a conversation to discuss a short workshop with the CALL Program for later

in the winter. She stated that she will also reach out to the classes in the Environmental Studies department and enlist her student employees to participate (about 10 students). She said there is a very strong democracy program at KSC that encourages students to participate in civil engagement and she will discuss opportunities for involvement with that.

Ms. Brunner encouraged members to register for the virtual forum and share the event and try to get the word out.

c) Draft Plan Outline

Dr. Shedd stated that they had hoped to have the finalized draft plan before the forum, however, it is not a short document and it will not be ready before October 20<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Brunner said her target date to get the draft on the website is October 20, however it would not be ready before then. She said members have seen different sections of the plan and now they are organizing which sections should be included in the plan.

She said the Action Plan chapter which includes 17 prioritization strategies has not changed much since the last time she presented it, which she views as the meat of the plan. Dr. Shedd asked if it would be helpful to re-send the link to the shared drive with the documents. Members agreed. Ms. Brunner stated that the link also appears at the bottom of the agenda each month. Ms. Brunner stated that members have seen most of the information in one context or another with the exception of the Introduction chapter which lays out in narrative form the planning context, the background, the adoption of the energy goals, the planning process and public input, as well as the Energy Plan Vision.

She stated that Chapter 2 is renamed “Roadmap to 2050” and includes the three sectors: Electricity, Thermal and Transportation, it includes the goal at the top and the four major pathways (reducing energy use, generating renewable energy, local storage and procuring remaining energy demands through fuel switching and procurements, and ongoing advocacy and education). She said for under each of the four pathways is a list of actions and some of those actions are cross cutting and might apply to multiple sectors. She said they also included icons to indicate priority implementation strategy which then shows up in the Action Plan chapter. Ms. Brunner said members have seen the baseline for each of the three sectors and staff are working on pulling that information together to put into a single chapter. She stated that Chapter 4 is called “Measuring Progress” which will include performance metrics. She said she can send out a link to the performance metrics to members. She stated that Chapter 5 is the Action Plan, and then there is Appendices which will include notes from community energy conversations and other supporting data. Ms. Brunner asked if there are questions about the outline. Ms. Gaunt replied that she loves the outline, the structure and the concept of “roadmap” and the starting baseline. She said she likes that the details are put into the appendices and stated that she would not change anything.

Dr. Shedd thanked Ms. Brunner, Ms. Peruccio and Ms. Urquia, as well as all of the community members who have worked together.

#### 4. **October Energy Awareness Month Events**

Dr. Shedd stated that October was declared Energy Awareness month by the Mayor and many other communities have adopted it as well. She said last year the Clean Energy Team pulled together a number of events and this year it is happening virtually, including the virtual forum. She said Clean Energy Team is putting together a virtual solar installation home tour with the hope that eventually there will be a live solar tour.

She encouraged members to register for the Sustainability Hub's Community Roundtable on October 28. There will 5 or 6 different communities in the region talking about their various efforts in responding to climate challenges.

Dr. Shedd said the Local Energy Solutions Conference is separated into two half day virtual events this year and they have great keynote and panelists lined up for that event. Ms. Brunner said if anyone is interested in going to the conference, admission can be covered by the City as the City gets two complementary tickets with their membership. Dr. Shedd said attendance is also free with an annual membership. Dr. Shedd suggested that they send the link to the flyer to committee members and Ms. Brunner said she will send a link for the whole promotion kit to members. Dr. Shedd stated that hopefully ECC will participate next October 2021.

#### 5. **Community Power Update**

Dr. Shedd stated that Vice Chair Hansel is chairing the City's ad hoc Community Power Committee and Ms. Brunner provided an update. Ms. Brunner announced that the City Council voted to authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute a contract with Good Energy and Standard Power, and the City is in the process of reviewing a draft contract. She said the City is looking into the possibility of having the contract third party reviewed. She stated that once they do sign a contract, they will start moving forward with all the next steps, such as public outreach, and working on the draft plan. Vice Chair Hansel stated that they went out to bid and they received two proposals, one from Freedom Energy and one from the Standard Power/Good Energy group. Dr. Shedd said that Ms. Brunner did a nice summary of the ECC vision and goals that should guide the process.

*Vice Chair Hansel left the meeting.*

Ms. Brunner stated that the Community Power New Hampshire (CPNH) group is still working on their joint agreement and still have not submitted them yet, but Mr. Bouchard is hopeful that the group will have their documents finalized at the end of the month to submit to the State. Once submitted, there is a 30-day review period. Dr. Shedd stated that so far, the active participants include Lebanon, Hanover, Nashua and Cheshire County. They are calling it a "shared back office model" but each of the participating entities will have independence in setting their own goals and coming up with their own power plans. Dr. Shedd said the Monadnock Sustainability Hub has been closely following that group and developing education around community power in general, and

they have had some online events, including a presentation by Ms. Doria Brown who is the Energy Manager of Nashua, on how they have been soliciting data from Eversource. She stated that the ongoing task is how to get more specific information in addition to baseline data, and the consultant will at some point need that information as part of the public outreach and tracking of community electricity use.

#### 6. **Committee Membership**

Dr. Shedd stated that Vice Chair Hansel has reached out to a couple of individuals they had talked about last month, as well as someone from Eversource, as it is important to nurture those relationships. As far as she knows, he does not have a specific individual proposed but other communities have had utility representations. Dr. Shedd stated that the Human Rights committee is also looking to have equitable representation on committees, however, it is unclear how their input will shape ECC nomination and appointment process. Quorum is based on the 11 seats or more, so it is very important to have enough individuals on each committee.

Dr. Shedd stated that Mr. Roth is willing to move up to one of the vacancies. Ms. Brunner said that she has looked over the draft minutes from the most recent meeting of the Human Rights committee and met with Andy Bohannon, the Parks and Recreation Director who staffs that committee. According to the draft minutes and Mr. Bohannon, the Human Rights Committee has proposed to review the way that the City recruits volunteers and identify barriers, for example, a recommendation is to remove the requirement of uploading a resume and instead provide background information on an online form. They are also looking to make it easier for people to find out information about volunteer opportunities. She said the message she received is that the actual process of nomination and appointment is not actually changing, however, the barriers to recruitment are in the process of being examined.

Dr. Shedd said for this committee, they have been mindful of representation from various sectors, but perhaps not the entire profile of the residential community, which is a challenge ECC faces, as it is more technically oriented.

#### 7. **New Business**

Dr. Shedd asked if members have items to add to the November 4 agenda. Ms. Gaunt suggested that as part of the November agenda, they can perhaps have someone from the Human Rights Committee come to speak to ECC to ask for further recommendations for inclusivity. Ms. Brunner said she can check in with Mr. Bohannon to see if he is available to come in and talk with the committee. She also encouraged members to share any ideas they may have to the Human Right Committee.

#### 8. **Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 4, 2020**

9. **Adjourn**

Dr. Shedd adjourned the meeting at 9:20 am.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ayshah Kassamali-Fox, Minute-Taker

Reviewed and edited by Mari Brunner, Planner



## Community Development Department

### MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 28, 2020

TO: Energy and Climate Committee

FROM: Mari Brunner, Planner

COPY: Rhett Lamb, Community Development Director / Assistant City Manager

SUBJECT: Draft Sustainable Energy Plan

#### **Recommendation**

To review and provide comments and feedback on the draft Keene Sustainable Energy Plan, dated October 2020.

#### **Background**

A first draft of the Keene Sustainable Energy Plan is available for public review and comment. You can view the full draft plan online by visiting [www.KeeneEnergyPlan.com/draftplan](http://www.KeeneEnergyPlan.com/draftplan), or you can view individual chapters by navigating to the [ECC Google Drive folder](#), where the individual chapters have been uploaded to the “Sustainable Energy Plan” folder.

This first draft does not include a title page, table of contents, or appendices. In addition, it does not incorporate any of the feedback that was provided at the October 20 community forum or since. The feedback received by staff to date has been summarized, and is included as attachments to this memo.

Staff will accept public comments on this draft plan through Monday, November 16, 2020, at which time staff will begin incorporating public feedback into a final draft to share with the ECC at your meeting in December. Following ECC review of the final draft, the plan will be submitted to City Council.

#### **Attachments:**

1. Energy Forum breakout session summary notes:
  - a. Community Power
  - b. Home Energy Labeling & Benchmarking
  - c. Electric Vehicles
2. Feedback submitted via the KeeneEnergyPlan.com website:
  - a. Bruce Norland
  - b. Wes Cobb
  - c. Janet Collett

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## Summary of Community Power Breakout at Oct. 20 Energy Forum

Attendees expressed strong support for increasing renewables in the mix of energy that is used (as well as local energy sources), however, there is a recognition that there may be a biased or partisan opinion from those attending this evening, and cost may be more important to the general public. It is important to consider an equitable approach to the program.

Need to be clear about the opt-out / opt-in implications.

With respect to long term goals:

- Build a micro grid at the airport to supply our own energy.
- Reduce the per capita carbon/greenhouse gas production.
- Build a dam at the Beaver Brook falls- both to capture hydroelectric energy and provide flood control
- Identify which goals are “low-hanging fruit”? Which ones would get us to 100% renewable? Which ones would bring long-term local resilience?
- Energy efficiency is the low hanging fruit. If there is a way to redeploy savings through group power purchase for City wide energy efficiency program, given the age of City housing stock, may be an easy way to reduce demand for community. If build some money reserve could be used to leverage CDBG grant, which is focused on energy efficiency projects

## Questions Raised Before Breakout

- What were the criteria for selecting a consultant?
- Terry Clarke asked a question about joining a community power petition at the state level.
- April Galarza - Besides responding to the survey, how can citizens help bring about community power?
- Chuck Weed – How can we support local providers of energy? (*Patrick from Good Energy responded that the community can choose where energy is sourced. Traditionally the cheapest renewable energy is from Midwest, but could source from New England*)
- Jay Kahn: If there is state legislation that can reinforce and improve opportunities for community power, please get in touch with me. I plan to sponsor in the next legislative session more aggressive and longer term renewable portfolio standards for NH. He shared his contact info: kahnjay03@gmail.com, 603-381-2930.
- Terry Clark – Wondering if people who want to change back to previous provider within a year will be charged a fee for opting out again?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**QUESTION 1: If the City moves forward with offering a Community Power program in Keene, residents and businesses will be notified by mail at least 30 days before the program launches to inform them of the program (including the electricity supply price), and to let them know how they can opt-out of the program.**

- a) **What type of information or outreach would help you decide whether or not to stay with the program, or opt out?**
- b) **How do you prefer to get updates from the City (email, city social media, newspaper, mail, etc.)?**

### RESPONSES (VERBAL/DURING BREAKOUT)

- Josh Meehan – Display long-term trend data in info sent to citizens.
- A website or place to post discussion when these issues come up - e.g. when the mailing goes out asking if people wanted to sign up, a way for people to discuss it and share ideas and questions online.

### RESPONSES (ONLINE SURVEY) – 1. A)

- Website where all the rules and policy is written. I need to feel confident that the City has done its homework and has a sustainable source of energy.
- Price
- An analysis of price trends vs rate being locked-in through community power. How long the rate is being locked-in and how one opts-out.
- % renewables, specific types of renewables, location of renewable (prefer more local), carbon footprint of the whole package, price comparisons - might be good to provide choices if that is possible. Compare Sources should be rated by \$/#carbon produced (or avoided)
- The power supply mix REALLY matters to me. Will this program require that citizens commit to 100% renewable credits, or something less? Will it be regional renewable, or nationally sourced?
- I would like to know the renewable energy mix and have the option for 100% renewable.

### RESPONSES (ONLINE SURVEY) – 1. B)

- email and links to a website
- email or social media
- Email, and in this case, perhaps snail mail.
- All of the above; email #1, followed by others
- I'm an emailer, and I can't deny that a great, though not always free way to reach EVERYONE in town, especially potentially more-reluctant adopters, is the ol' Shopper News...
- Email, please.

**QUESTION 2: The Keene Community Power Committee (CPC) is currently working to identify goals for a program in Keene. Two immediate goals include increasing the percentage of renewable energy in the electricity supply mix as much as possible, while offering a default rate that is cost-competitive with the default rate offered through Eversource.**

**How important to you is the goal of increasing renewable energy in the supply mix, vs. offering a competitive rate?**

#### **RESPONSES (VERBAL/DURING BREAKOUT)**

- Would like to emphasize renewables and see a high percentage available 24 hours a day
- Renewable Energy
- Priority is Renewable
- Opting for the cheapest energy is the problem and the reason we are where we are now getting rid of dirty coal.
- My priority is on renewable, regenerative sources.
- My priority is renewable as well. Also I would love to know exactly what kind of energy (wind, solar, etc. is included in the mix, where it comes from. I would especially love to purchase energy produced by our neighbors (pay for their RECs)
- Issue is that you are speaking to the choir tonight. It has to be cost competitive for this to work for the masses. To say that you are going to pay more, would make it fall on its face. Tonight, most are likely to say they will pay more.
- How do you plan to make it equitable for everyone without low costs? Those in lower income brackets can't afford to pay more.
- Renewable energy is paramount
- Is there an economy of scale play? The more people that opt in the lower the rate, or is it irrespective the # of participants. Huge portion of residents not able to say "yes" to paying more.
- In the survey, you mentioned you might have an "opt-up" option for 100% renewable, can you speak more to that?
- Gov had opportunity to sign bipartisan legislation encouraging increasing energy cap but continues to say it would increase costs and be more expensive for consumer... how do we look at this as a piece of truth or piece of politics?
- Surveys are good, if you can get people to take them. Efforts should be made to make sure that the respondents are representative of the mix of homeowners, which means you may need to partner with KSC or a consultant to get this done correctly, otherwise it's just the choir talking.
- An opt out will be an easy decision, and it is more likely that people will opt out if money is an issue
- Patrick Roche (Good Energy) noted that there are benefits such as subsidized heating that will remain with the program.

#### **RESPONSES (ONLINE SURVEY)**

- Increasing the percentage of renewable energy is more important to me.
- The percentage of renewable energy and the rate for electricity supply are equally important to me. Not so interested in advocating for policy without (price) equity and without other barriers.

- Increasing the percentage of renewable energy is more important to me.
- Increasing the percentage of renewable energy is more important to me.
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- Increasing the percentage of renewable energy is more important to me.

**QUESTION 3. A Community Power program in Keene could offer more than one option for electricity supply. For example, the program could offer options to “Opt-up” to 100% renewable or “opt-down” to fewer renewables at a cheaper price.**

- a) **If the program were to offer an “opt-up” option, where you could choose to pay more per kilowatt hour to purchase 100% renewable energy, would you choose that option? Why or why not?**
- b) **If the program were to offer an “opt-down” option, where you could choose to pay a little bit less per kilowatt hour for electricity that contains less renewable energy, would you choose that option? Why or why not?**

#### **RESPONSES (ONLINE SURVEY) – 3. A)**

- Yes
- No
- Maybe (please explain) - Depends on the delta between the two rates.
- Maybe (please explain) - LOVE this idea!!!
- Maybe (please explain) - Depends again on the source...
- Yes

#### **RESPONSES (ONLINE SURVEY) – 3. B)**

- No
- No
- Maybe (please explain) - Depends on the delta.
- Maybe (please explain) - I guess it depends on the cost differential! If it is thousands of dollars per year, but less than \$200-300 per year, no worries
- Maybe (please explain) - While I may not opt for brown power, I like that we give program participants the OPTION
- Maybe (please explain) - Only if the 100% renewable option was much more expensive than our current electric costs

**QUESTION 4. Over time, Community Power programs can be used to achieve longer-term goals and outcomes, such as reducing energy use through energy efficiency programs, reducing energy demand by deploying time-of-use services such as smart meters, solar + battery storage, and EV charging during off-peak times, and encouraging the development of renewable energy projects locally and regionally.**

**What do you think the long-term goals of the Keene Community Power Program should be?**

#### **RESPONSES (VERBAL/DURING BREAKOUT)**

- Is the idea that there may be savings that would be deployed for other activities?
- Build a micro grid at the airport to supply our own energy.
- One goal: Reduce the per capita carbon/greenhouse gas production. Can work the economic aspect in by comparing \$ per lb of carbon production avoided
- Out of these goals, which are “low-hanging fruit”? Which ones would get us to 100% renewable? Which ones would bring long-term local resilience?
- Energy efficiency is the low hanging fruit, the EE stuff. If there is a way to redeploy savings through group power purchase for City wide energy efficiency program, given the age of City housing stock, may be an easy way to reduce demand for community. If build some money reserve could be used to leverage CDBG grant, which is focused on energy efficiency projects
- Why can't Keene build a dam at the Beaver Brook falls- both to capture hydroelectric energy and provide flood control?
- Why not have a microgrid that building a resilience zone
- Is energy efficiency really easy? It seems like whenever you have to go from home to home and work with private homeowners, it is more difficult and slower. I do think this needs to happen but can it happen fast enough to address climate change?

#### **RESPONSES (ONLINE SURVEY)**

- The community power program should FIRST concentrate on achieving 100% renewable at a rate = to general available power. My 100% renewable rate (3rd party) just went down so I believe the trend is towards lower cost for renewable power.
- Make it much more accessible. Put solar panels on affordable housing at NO cost and then let them reap the benefits of paying less or even nothing.
- Energy efficiency followed by generation.
- Overall: Reducing the carbon footprint of meeting our energy needs.
- Reduce emissions support renewable energy AND green jobs Be a regional leader in WHAT IS POSSIBLE in climate leadership!
- All of the above-listed ideas sound great! Anything that will get us closer to our goal.

**QUESTION 5. Over the next few months, the Keene Community Power Committee will be working to develop a Community Power program for electricity customers in Keene. The first step in this process is to develop a Community Power plan, with input from the public.**

- a) **How do you think the City/committee should get input from the public? (virtual meetings? Online surveys? Other?)**
- b) **How likely are you to engage in this process and provide feedback? Why or why not?**

#### **RESPONSES (ONLINE SURVEY) – 5. A)**

- Virtual meetings and online surveys. Ask a question is probably worth having which then allows the City to populate a FAQ section.
- Better meetings
- I think there has to be a multi-pronged approach.
- Surveys are good, if you can get people to take them. Efforts should be made to make sure that the respondents are representative of the mix of homeowners, which means you may need to partner with KSC or a consultant to get this done correctly, otherwise it's just the choir talking.
- Online surveys
- A short video that explains community power along with a short online survey, is my professional recommendation. I have 10+ years experience as a communications professional.

#### **RESPONSES (ONLINE SURVEY) – 5. B)**

- I am in, I think it is a worthy and achievable goal
- Not sure
- I'll remain involved, but bandwidth is an issue for me.
- Am already involved with MSH, since the other towns in the region are so far behind. If Keene needs me, I am happy to help, but it sure looks like you have enough people involved.
- I AM likely, but this is also what I do for work. So, it's very possible that I'll grow impatient or bored before others are likely
- Very likely. I am a member of Keene Clean Energy Team.

**QUESTION 6. Please provide any additional comments, questions, or feedback here.**

- Get this right before implementation. A failure in this program will set back to City years from achieving its goals.
- Keene needs to make sure that our efforts create a foundation or a bridge for other towns to build on. We can only do so much, and we need to put MAJOR efforts into helping the other towns. And work with Community Power NH!
- I'm really curious who's helping the city to engage in price discovery, procurement and contract negotiations from the many providers out there. I'm currently doing this for work, shopping 3rd party providers. There are many products out there! I'm so glad I have a consultant to help navigate the many elements of this choice.
- Thank you!

## Summary of Home Energy Labeling / Benchmarking Breakout

Facilitators: Cary Gaunt, ECC, Keene State College; Jake Pipp, ECC, Energy Efficiency Work; John Balfe, Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP)

### Examples from other communities (John Balfe):

- Residential Home Energy Labeling:
  - Montpelier: Under Development
  - Burlington: Rentals
  - Montgomery County: Homes and Condos
- Commercial Benchmarking:
  - South Portland, Me: 30 buildings covered in pilot; incentive --waived permitting fee; 96 percent compliance
    - They passed it as a Zoning Code, although most places pass an ordinance through City Council
    - Andy Bohannon wants John to send Mari or him examples of reports that South Portland uses

## Question & Answer

- Andy: City has been involved with Honeywell since 2010. For facilities, they have the data already. It's just a matter of where to put it. He wants to see South Portland's examples to brainstorm possibilities for presenting this.
  - City facilities: rec center, city hall, police building, public works, wastewater treatment plant, etc.
- Cary: Have you seen penalties working?
  - John: Penalties can be tricky because it has negative connotations for building owners. There *have* been some adopted.
    - I.e. Every day that you're not in compliance with the ordinance, you're subject to a twenty dollar fine everyday
    - I.e. If they're producing a report, "This building did not participate and isn't eligible for the program." (Kind of like public shaming)
  - There's a lot of flexibility that Cities offer to businesses in the first year. You want to have a fair amount of leniency in the beginning phases.
- Zach: Heating oil and propane are used heavily here and delivered by many different suppliers. I see reporting on that usage possibly being more challenging than things like electricity or water. Have you seen things in other cities that might help with this?
  - John: Through portfolio manager, you can fill in data. It's harder, but not impossible. You could work with local providers to make sure that the information is available. Cities should make sure building owners can actually *get* access

- Cary: How are people trained in using it (EPA Portfolio Manager)?
  - Portfolio Manager itself does a nice job to train building owners. There are virtual guides, and in non-Covid times, they offer live-trainings (and invite building owners.)
  - In the case of South Portland, they were fortunate, because they could do a little bit of handholding.
  
- Nancy Gillard: We have a large percentage of housing in rental properties. How could this be used as incentive for doing weatherization?
  - John: Make use of New Hampshire Saves, and educate the public. It is possible to encourage people to take advantage of these available programs.
  
- Cary: At Keene State, the student off-campus rental housing is in poor condition. For Burlington's example, what can we learn from them? How can we get greater participation from landlords?
  - John: The landlord-tenant situation is a big problem in the energy world. At NEEP, they've developed an energy rental checklist for people looking to rent apartments (questions to ask, things to consider). Renters have the information to ask landlords to make small upgrades.
  
- Pat Martin: Does NH participate in HELIX now? It's a home rating system.
  - John: Not yet, to his knowledge.
  
- Andrew Madison: Could Landlords potentially be required to disclose energy use when advertising rentals? Especially when utilities aren't included in rent?
  - John: Yes, that's up for consideration for what Keene's trying to do. It could be a home energy rating, or consumption data. How do people feel about that?
  
- Zach Luse: My previous question was more geared towards residential reporting which seems like it would be far more efficient to do at scale by having the utilities and fuel suppliers report delivery/usage by address. Is that something that's happening anywhere or is everything based on self-reporting?
  - John: I agree it would be easier if it was coming from the utility level, but there are privacy concerns that makes this an issue. (You could get around this by signing waivers.)
  - Another opportunity related to this: some utilities offer direct upload of this information from their sites to Portfolio Manager. That takes the burden off of the building owner or homeowner.
  
- Pat Martin: NHSAVES requires a year of fuel and electric bills to participate in their grant-funded programs. What are some of the Home Energy Rating systems?
  - John: Home Energy Score, Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Index; there are a few different paths

## Guiding Questions

**QUESTION 1. The Energy and Climate Committee has recommended that the City explore a phased approach for instituting a Benchmarking or Home Energy Labeling program, starting with a voluntary program and gradually becoming mandatory (starting with the largest energy users first).**

**Do you think the City should start with a voluntary program for benchmarking and/or Home Energy Labeling? Why or why not?**

### RESPONSES (VERBAL/DURING BREAKOUT)

- Pat Martin: If you start voluntarily, you can really boost up the folks who are excited!
- Andy: Starting voluntarily will give some early data points. If you start make it a requirement, people might balk. “Woah!”
- John Balfe: He’s seen that making it mandatory right out of the gate raises red flags for communities. He recommends starting voluntarily.
- Nancy: I think we should model it first, and then showcase the benefits. We want to educate and inform first, so that people *choose* to be engaged.
- Suzanne: What’s the length of time for transitioning from voluntary to mandatory?
- John: With benchmarking, it’s 3-5 years (in that range).
- Cary: Support for a voluntary program that would encourage early adopters to share, and for it to spread more organically for showcasing the benefits.

### RESPONSES (ONLINE SURVEY)

- Start with voluntary program, then transition to a mandatory program
- Start with voluntary program, then transition to a mandatory program
- Start with voluntary program, and keep it voluntary - Start voluntary, then see how it goes.
- Start with voluntary program, then transition to a mandatory program - Only switch to mandatory if necessary. Voluntary is better.

**QUESTION 2. If the City decides to implement a benchmarking policy, which buildings do you think should be either asked or required to report energy use? (i.e. all buildings, only buildings of a certain size or larger, only buildings in a certain district, only commercial buildings, etc.)?**

### RESPONSES (VERBAL/DURING BREAKOUT)

- Andy: The City should be modelling for our community. That’s going to help drive participation. There could be incentives for building owners to participate. Zach, did the City work with you to create a zone for your building?
- Zach: We took advantage of a tax freeze: property taxes were frozen for five years
- Cary: Keene State would like to step up as a leader to show how this could be done.
- Nancy: The big energy consumers (i.e. hospital, schools, etc.)

- Suzanne: But it would also be good to have a variety
- Pat: Rental properties should be included because it has a direct impact of low-income people who may be struggling
- Andrew Madison: Multi-Unit rentals, especially the older buildings near the center of town.

#### RESPONSES (ONLINE SURVEY)

- All buildings with certain types becoming required over time with the ultimate goal of requiring for all buildings.
- Big energy users but also a variety of buildings, commercial/residential, rental, etc.
- Multi-Unit rentals properties. Especially ones over a certain age (e.g. 80 years).
- Definitely commercial and rental housing should be asked to participate in a very public way so that potential renters are motivated to ask for that information. I think the residential portion should be voluntary.

**QUESTION 3. Do you think a benchmarking or home energy labeling program should be tied to incentives? If so, what types of incentives should the City consider offering for participation in the program?**

#### RESPONSES (VERBAL/DURING BREAKOUT)

- Zach: Property tax freezes, things to offset the costs of doing upgrades
- Andrew Madison: I agree: property tax freezes would be pretty persuasive
- Janet: and for small businesses
- Pat: eventually we might have federal incentives

#### RESPONSES (ONLINE SURVEY)

- Yes, I believe incentive such as 79-E, weatherization programs, property tax incentives and others should be used in lieu of requirements.
- [no answer]
- Property tax breaks to cover the costs of upgrades could be persuasive .
- Definitely tie them to incentives (even modest) and lots of praise for participating. Property tax credits.

**QUESTION 4. Some benchmarking policies require building owners to reduce their energy use over time, while others do not require a reduction in energy use. Do you think the City should include a requirement for buildings to use less energy over time?**

#### RESPONSES (VERBAL/DURING BREAKOUT)

- Andy: I think it's incentive-based.
- Janet: We haven't talked about ventilation here

### RESPONSES (ONLINE SURVEY)

- Maybe (please explain) - Maybe for major renovation projects or change of use.
- [no answer]
- No
- No

**QUESTION 5. The Energy & Climate Committee has recommended that the City explore a Home Energy Labeling program for both homes for sale, as well as rentals (almost half of all households in Keene rent, rather than own). Do you think rentals should be included in a home energy labeling program, as well as homes for sale?**

### RESPONSES (ONLINE SURVEY)

- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes

**QUESTION 6. If the City decides to implement a Home Energy Labeling program, when do you think homes and/or rentals should be asked or required to list their home energy label?**

### RESPONSES (ONLINE SURVEY)

- At time of sale – 0/4 selected
- At time of listing – 4/4 selected
- When a building is leased or a unit is rented out - 4/4 selected
- At time of building renovation – 2/4 selected
- When major systems are updated – 2/4 selected
- Other (please specify) – 0/4 selected

**QUESTION 7. Please provide any additional comments, questions, or feedback here.**

- So exciting! My favorite topic!

## Electric Vehicle Breakout Session Notes

Panel Members: Peter Hansel, Ann Shedd, John Kondos, Brianna Brand

Ice breaker: ***Who are you, Where are you living, and are you an E.V. owner (enter in chat)?***

- J. B. Mack, Keene, No
- Peter Hansel, Keene, Plug in Hybrid
- Brianna Brand, Hampton (sorry-invited guest!), traditional hybrid
- George Hansel, Keene, Current EV owner
- Will Schoefmann, Keene, Not an EV owner

### Guiding Questions

**QUESTION 1. What policies or strategies do you think the City should pursue to encourage EV adoption among individuals?**

- Bruce Norlund – Tesla, home chargers, Can Keene provide incentives to offset the cost. Can the City help transition police and other fleet vehicles into EV
- JB Mack – Not in the market for EV, too expensive. Tries to offset emissions by biking and small vehicle trips. Biggest nut to crack, affordability. Solutions from our State Government. Local idea adopting an EV car sharing program, would require better charging infrastructure. Ease into trying out the technology.
- John Kondos – police cars being changed out here and there, electric buses have benefits of reduced exhaust inhaled by school children
- Peter Hansel – Leased his first vehicles and interest rates were a deciding factor in being affordable.
- Brianna Brand – NH Electric Coop is the only incentive provider at the moment. Municipalities can buy off the state's bid lists where there are hybrids available. More on the federal side of things, credits. Tesla, GM more popular. Efforts from NH reps to extend the federal tax credits
- George Hansel – Biodiesel in use and other hybrid type vehicles in fleet. Bolt incentive, 8700\$ off recently purchased. Nissan doing a promotion of free chargers, could be an option, revision energy installed a level 2 charger at Filtrine.
- J.B. Mack, Question – What does the used EV market look like, could be a more affordable option?
- Ann Shedd – she saw a used Nissan leaf at Robinhood a week ago
- Brianna Brand – EVs are close to reaching price parity in 2-5 years, a lot of models coming off of leases which could make the market more robust. NH tough because it's not a zero emission mandate state.

**QUESTION 2. What policies or strategies do you think the City should consider to encourage the installation of EV charging infrastructure on private property?**

- Ann Shedd – George Hansel’s example of Filtrine installing a level 2 station. Other places in the country private businesses doing this.
- JB Mack – Solar doesn’t affect the value of your property, could there be a similar program
- John Kondos – can the City help get the State on track? We need incentives, write letters to state reps. Currently folks could get hurt by charging at peak rate times. Cost of ownership is lower.

Questions from chat

J.B. Mack to everyone: 6:53 PM: Are there any advances in adaptor technology for tesla (tesla) chargers?

- Brianna Brand – Non tesla vehicles cannot charge at tesla charging stations, tesla has an adaptor that enables teslas to charge at any charging station.

**From:** [Community Development](#)  
**To:** [Bruce Norlund](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [Keene Energy Plan] Footer: feedback - new submission  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 9:11:00 AM

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Hi Bruce,

Thank you for attending the Energy Plan forum last night, and for reaching out with comments and questions. The comments & questions we received from you are listed below, in the order they were received. My responses are in blue. If you have any further questions/comments, please feel free to reach out to me directly at [mbrunner@ci.keene.nh.us](mailto:mbrunner@ci.keene.nh.us) or by calling 352-5440 (alternatively, you may continue to use the website).

1. What are the plans for the City of Keene to purchase fully electric vehicles? *At this point in time, I do not believe the City has plans to purchase all electric vehicles for its own vehicle fleet; however, the City has purchased a few hybrid electric vehicles that employees use for travel. I believe you shared an example at the forum last night of another community that has purchased EVs for their police fleet; I would love to learn more about that example!*
2. It is important to keep in mind that there is a push to require that electric vehicles be required to pay an additional registration fee. *Thank you for this comment. I will share this with the Energy & Climate Committee at their next meeting, which is scheduled for November 4 at 8:00 am, and will be held via Zoom. Info on how to participate in this meeting will be posted online approximately 5 days before the meeting at <https://ci.keene.nh.us/energy-and-climate-committee>.*
3. Where is the energy meeting held on the first Friday of each month at 8 AM? *The Community Power Committee is currently meeting on Zoom. You can find info on how to join and participate in these meetings at <https://ci.keene.nh.us/community-power-committee>.*

Thank you again for taking part in the discussion last night! As the City continues to explore options and learn more about EVs, I hope you will stay involved.

Best,  
Mari

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**From:** Bruce Norlund <[no-reply+ae26d709f601@crm.wix.com](mailto:no-reply+ae26d709f601@crm.wix.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 20, 2020 8:16 PM  
**To:** Community Development <[communitydevelopment@ci.keene.nh.us](mailto:communitydevelopment@ci.keene.nh.us)>  
**Subject:** [Keene Energy Plan] Footer: feedback - new submission

**Bruce Norlund** just submitted your form: Footer: feedback  
on [Keene Energy Plan](#)

**From:** [Wes Cobb](#)  
**To:** [Mari Brunner](#)  
**Subject:** ELECTRICITY  
**Date:** Saturday, October 24, 2020 7:28:02 AM

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10-----24---2020 AM  
GREETINGS MARI.

SOUNDS LIKE THE NOTICE I GOT FROM THE DRAFT BOARD  
BACK IN 1950. BUT I "SHOWED THEM" I ENLISTED IN THE  
USAF INSTEAD OF FORCED INTO THE GROUND POUNDERS  
OR THE SWIMMERS...

MY QUESTION IS DOES SOME CITY DEPARTMENT KEEP RECORDS  
OF THE TOTAL ELECTRIC \$\$ USE BY ALL CITY GOVT. DEPARTMENTS  
GOING BACK X YEARS? CAN I GET THAT INFO BY MY COMPUTER  
& CLICKING AROUND THE CITY SITE?

THE CITIZENS HAVE BEEN TOLD YEAR AFTER YEAR ABOUT THE \$\$  
BEING SAVED BECAUSE OF SOLAR PANELS INSTALLED.  
IT'S KINDA SCAREY ABOUT HOW MUCH KEENE TAXES MIGHT HAVE  
INCREASED WERE IT NOT FOR ALL THE PANELS.

IN MY NARROW MINDED OPINION, WERE IT NOT FOR SUBSIDIES  
AND/OR TAX CREDITS AT LOCAL, STATE, & FEDERAL GOVT. LEVELS  
IT WOULD NOT BE FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE TO INSTALL SOLAR  
PANELS OR WINDMILLS.

ONE OF MY GRANDCHILDREN WORKS ON WINDMILL MAINTENANCE  
OUT IN IOWA. HE WORKS FOR VESTAS A FOREIGN OWNED CORP  
& I GUESS EVEN THEY CAN CASH IN ON OUR TAX DOLLARS...  
ALL OF OUR OFFSPRING WILL BE PAYING FOR THIS..  
WES COBB

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**From:** [Janet Collett](#)  
**To:** [Mari Brunner](#)  
**Subject:** Thank you for organizing and asking for further comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 11:22:50 AM

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As the "Home energy" meeting closed I had 2 additional thoughts/concerns:

1. Building standards themselves may need serious scrutiny:

National standards may not take in climatic differences across the US that ranges from v.dry to v. humid. Keene is probably mid-way with both, varyingly.

The problem of ventilation, and building breathing, as building materials change and now also as we become more concerned about infections and allergies. I worry a lot that contemporary building materials are not used in ways that allow for this breathing and are not only likely to bring problems with mold and rot as well as problems to human health. These two issues need inclusion in the building standards for energy efficiency.

2. Funding to improve the many single story buildings used in businesses in Keene could be very effective. Tire Warehouse, I understand from its manager, would be happy to extol the benefits in both energy costs and worker well-being following its substantial refit of 1. roof insulation, 2. roof color (black -> white) and 3. a good ventilation and cooling system. As I look around other spaces (e.g. Toadstool Bks) I'm alarmed by what must be their costs of both heating and cooling.

3. It probably wouldn't be easy, but since builders learn their trade from older builders, generally, they often overlook problems and possibilities of the materials they use. I wonder what besides the impromptu good advice from a building inspector could help both building owners and builders to understand what best practices may be. I've chatted with Hamshaw's about mounting workshops, but some coordination might be strategic in moving on practical action?

And that's it for now!

Janet