



ENERGY & CLIMATE COMMITTEE

AGENDA - AMENDED

Wednesday, January 4, 2023, 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
Clair Oursler
Linsey Edmunds

Councilor Bryan Lake
Beth Campbell
Lisa Maxfield, Alternate
Chuck Redfern, Alternate
Kenneth Swymer, Alternate

Staff:

Mari Brunner, Senior Planner

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair
3. Approval of Minutes – December 7, 2022
4. Introduction of New Members
5. Energy Plan Work Group Report-outs
 - a. Weatherization
 - b. Electric Vehicles
 - c. Community Solar
 - d. Renewable Energy Loans
 - e. Outreach and Education
6. Monadnock Earth Festival – Invitation to Co-Sponsor
7. Introduction of Monadnock Energy Circuit Rider – John Kondos
8. Committee Memberships & Budget Discussion
9. Planning for Annual Retreat
10. Community Power Update
11. New Business
12. Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 1, 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, December 7, 2022

8:00 AM

Council Chambers,
City Hall

Members Present:

Peter Hansel, Chair
Zach Luse, Vice Chair
Councilor Bryan Lake
Jake Pipp
Jude Nuru
Diana Duffy
Clair Oursler
Charles Redfern, Alternate

Staff Present:

Mari Brunner, Senior Planner

Members Not Present:

Councilor Raleigh Ormerod
Paul Roth
Beth Campbell
Linsey Edmunds

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

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12 Peter Hansel called the meeting to order at 8:15 AM and conducted roll call. Chuck Redfern was
13 asked to participate as a voting member.

14
15 **2) Approval of Minutes- November 2, 2022**

16
17 Chair Hansel asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Councilor Bryan Lake moved to
18 approve the November 2, 2022 minutes with a second from Mr. Zach Luse. The motion passed
19 by roll call vote.

20
21 **3) Energy Plan Work Group Report-outs**

22 **A) Weatherization**

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24 Zach Luse reported that the weatherization work group was not able to meet this month. There
25 is a Button Up workshop at 6pm this evening (December 7, 2022) at the Rec Center in Keene.
26
27

28 **B) Electric Vehicles**

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30 Councilor Bryan Lake reported that the EV group is trying to work on guidelines or requirements
31 for EVs and Solar arrays. They had a discussion with Director Jesse Rounds and chatted through
32 things they can and cannot do within the code. He believes they found a good way forward
33 around exploring some incentives that they can actually build into the code. They are hoping to
34 bring something substantive back to the committee in the near future.

35
36 **C) Community Solar**

37
38 Chair Hansel said that Mr. Jude Nuru was going to report, but he is not present. Chair Hansel
39 spoke on his behalf and read an e-mail from Mr. Nuru:

40
41 “I have been meaning to provide updates prior to the ECC meeting tomorrow regarding
42 feasible community solar farms for Keene for 2023. I have been in contact with Mr. Dan Weeks,
43 Revision Energy, who has been working with Duncan Watson on site developments. My goal
44 was to share with Dan the subcommittee’s determination to see a community solar farm in 2023.
45 He confirmed it is going to happen and went further to provide an overview of the developments
46 so far. There are four potential sites- Monadnock Cemetery, Rose Lane, the City of Keene well
47 pump station house and a location near Arch St. However, he said these sites require
48 development and assessment and just completed a draft letter of intent for the city to review. If
49 the city approves and signs, then Revision site development expert will commence site
50 assessment. In short, two solar projects are likely to be developed for 2023. One for Keene
51 housing LMI (low and moderate income) residents and another as a solar cooperative for
52 individual households to participate.”

53
54 Chair Hansel asked Bruce Norlund (work group member) if he thought there was anything else
55 to report out and Bruce said he had nothing to add, but wanted to be one of the first to sign up for
56 community solar. Chair Hansel added that this has been slow and steady, but progressing
57 nonetheless.

58
59 Mr. Nuru arrived late and added that they are also trying to see how they can help other
60 initiatives in the city. He added that he is aware that Clean Energy NH is developing a program
61 to educate communities about ways to do community solar and believes that program will be
62 very useful.

63
64 **D) Renewable Energy Loans**

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66 Chair Hansel announced there was no meeting and nothing to report.

67
68 **E) Outreach and Education**

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70 Mr. Luse reported that there was no meeting for this workgroup either. They will regroup at the
71 start of the year.

72

73 **4) Keene Energy Week- Request for reimbursement for EV parking costs**

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75 Chair Hansel said they had received a request for reimbursement for costs that amount to \$45 for
76 reserving EV parking spaces for Energy Week. Chair Hansel asked Ms. Brunner what was the
77 process for reimbursement. Ms. Brunner said that, while the Committee does have a budget, the
78 process for approving expenditures may not be familiar because the budget is usually spent
79 entirely on memberships. The Energy and Climate committee has a budget of \$850/year.
80 Usually, \$250 goes towards Clean Energy NH to be a member of that organization. The
81 remaining \$600, over the past 20 years has been used to pay membership in ICLEI. ICLEI raised
82 their membership costs a few years ago and were letting Keene slide by on the lowered cost. The
83 membership was dropped this year, leaving that money unspent. It could be used for that or it
84 could be used to look at other potential membership options in the future. Normally, the group
85 would have to make a vote on an expenditure in the meeting and document it in minutes in order
86 for finance to be able to cut the check. This can be done ahead of time, but since this was not
87 preemptively approved, it has to be paid as a reimbursement. She added that parking fees can
88 only be waived by City Council. It is a pretty high bar and involved process.

89

90 Chair Hansel thanked Ms. Brunner.

91 Mr. Pipp asked Ms. Brunner if she could put together a list of those other organizations for
92 membership and benefits of membership so the group can think about what they would like to do
93 for next year. Ms. Brunner said she was not sure she would be able to do that by next month –
94 she could compile a list of available organizations, but would need more time for the details.
95 Chair Hansel suggested possibly utilizing a volunteer or member of this group to do that rather
96 than Ms. Brunner given her already tight schedule.

97

98 Chair Hansel requested a motion to approve the request for reimbursement from Ms. Carolyn
99 Jones. Mr. Jake Pipp made a motion to approve the reimbursement request for \$45 and Mr. Zach
100 Luse seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

101

102 **5) Meeting schedule for 2023**

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104 Chair Hansel said they are trying to stick to the first Wednesday of each month and asked if there
105 were any questions or problems with that schedule. Ms. Brunner pointed out there are a couple of
106 dates in the lineup (January and July) that fall very close to a Holiday and pointed out that
107 quorum can be difficult to achieve in those situations. She suggested the group could adjust the
108 dates now or leave them as-is and adjust later. Chair Hansel made note that he will not be chair
109 and asked for a show of hands that expects to be present for the January meeting.

110

111 Mr. Redfern asked if he could zoom in for the January date. Ms. Brunner said yes, she believed
112 that would be fine as she expected to have AV support. Chair Hansel pointed out that his

113 attendance by zoom would not count towards quorum, but he would still be considered a voting
114 member.

115 Chair Hansel asked the group's opinion of those dates. It was suggested to push the July 5
116 meeting date back a week to which Ms. Brunner pointed out that zoom may not be available due
117 to another meeting using it that same day/time. The group will proceed with January 4 meeting,
118 reschedule the July meeting for a week later to July 12 and then redistribute the schedule. Ms.
119 Brunner requested a vote to adopt the schedule. Chair Hansel requested motion, Mr. Zach Luse
120 motioned to approve and Mr. Nuru seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

121

122 **6) Planning for Annual Retreat**

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124 Chair Hansel noted that most years they try to do an annual retreat. He asked Mr. Luse to speak
125 on it. Dates have varied by year, but usually tend to be around March or April. Mr. Pipp
126 suggested doing it sooner rather than later if one of the topics of discussion is to be group
127 membership. Chair Hansel suggested the other option is to put that topic into the agenda of
128 January or February meeting. Mr. Luse suggested a separate discussion of the group
129 memberships and to look at April for the retreat. Chair Hansel mentioned that previously, they
130 have created a small subcommittee to develop the agenda and topics for the retreat. He suggested
131 doing that again and Mr. Luse welcomed members to bring forward any topics. It was asked to
132 avoid the April school break if at all possible.

133

134 **7) Community Power Update**

135

136 Ms. Brunner said there was not much to report. The plan is all finalized and ready to go. Right
137 now, they are just in a holding pattern because it is not the right time to go out to bid. We are
138 likely to see more movement in the start of the New Year.

139

140 Mr. Pipp asked if there was any data in the Eversource data that would be useful or accessible for
141 this group. Ms. Brunner responded that they can asked for aggregated data, but the rest is
142 protected and not shareable.

143

144 Chair Hansel suggested waiting for the end of the year to request the data on the solar installs
145 and suggested including a topic for future of discussion to be how to monitor the data.

146

147 **8) Membership**

148

149 Ms. Brunner noted that Mr. Kenneth Swymer and Ms. Lisa Maxfield have been nominated. They
150 are still waiting to be confirmed by City Council and will be joining as alternates. Chair Hansel
151 will be staying on until a replacement is found to fill that seat.

152

153 **9) New Business**

154

155 Mr. Nuru mentioned that John Kondos will be a valuable asset for the group and will be working
156 with the region as the new energy circuit rider. Chair Hansel suggested inviting him to come to a
157 meeting and speak.

158

159 **10) Next meeting: Wednesday, January 4, 2023- 8:00 AM**

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161 **11) Adjournment**

162

163 There being no further business, Chair Hansel adjourned the meeting at 9:03 AM.

164

165 Respectfully submitted by,
166 Amanda Trask, Minute Taker

167

168 Reviewed and edited by,
169 Mari Brunner, Senior Planner