



ENERGY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE (ECC)

AGENDA

Wednesday, October 4, 2023

8:00 AM

City Hall,
2nd Floor Conference Room

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, Alternate
Chuck Redfern, Alternate
Rowland Russell, Alternate

Staff:

Mari Brunner, Senior Planner

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes – September 6, 2023
3. ECC Work Group Report Outs
 - a. Community Solar
 - b. Grants, Fundraising, and Partnerships
 - c. Education and Outreach
 - d. Legislative Tracking
 - e. Food Security
4. Keene Energy Week: Oct. 21-28, www.KeeneEnergyWeek.com
 - a. Schedule
 - b. Volunteer Needs
 - c. Oct. 28 Energy Expo on Railroad Square
5. Fall Retreat: Tuesday, October 24, 3-6 pm at Stonewall Farm
 - a. Food / Potluck
 - b. Agenda
6. NHDOT Correspondence: Route 101 Road Project
7. Community Power Program update
8. Committee Membership
9. New Business
10. Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 1, 2023 – 8:00 am
11. Adjourn

Link to ECC Google Drive Folder:

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

1 City of Keene
2 New Hampshire

3
4
5 ENERGY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE
6 MEETING MINUTES
7

Wednesday, September 6, 2023

8:00 AM

Council Chambers,
City Hall

Members Present:

Zach Luse, Chair
Paul Roth, Vice Chair
Councilor Raleigh Ormerod
Councilor Bryan Lake
Peter Hansel
Jake Pipp
Beth Campbell
Clair Oursler
Jude Nuru (arrived 8:05 AM)
Lisa Maxfield, Alternate
Kenneth Swymer, Alternate
Rowland Russell, Alternate
Charles Redfern, Alternate (arrived 8:02 AM)

Staff Present:

Mari Brunner, Senior Planner

Members Not Present:

Diana Duffy

8
9 **1) Call to Order and Roll Call**

10
11 Chair Luse called the meeting to order at 8:01 AM and invited Dr. Rowland Russell and Ms.
12 Lisa Maxfield to participate as voting members.

13
14 **2) Approval of Minutes**

15
16 Chair Luse invited any discussion of the minutes. With no discussion, Chair Luse requested a
17 motion to approve the minutes. Councilor Bryan Lake moved to approve the minute of the prior
18 meeting with a second from Mr. Jake Pipp. With unanimous approval, the minutes from last
19 meeting were approved. Mr. Charles Redfern joined the meeting.

20
21 **3) ECC Work Group Report Outs**

22 **A) Community Solar**

23
24 No update
25

26 **B) Grants, Fundraising, and Partnerships**
27

28 Ms. Beth Campbell shared that they had a couple of positive interviews with other energy and
29 climate committee type managers from other jurisdictions. She spoke with Tad in Lebanon and
30 with the woman who's hiring for the Peterborough position. Ms. Campbell thinks that leaning on
31 the resources of those other communities, who have already sourced the funding and approval
32 through City Council, will be an excellent strategy.
33

34 In particular, she recommended to Mari and Zach to see if Tad could be a guest speaker on this
35 committee. He had done significant financial planning regarding what his position will bring in
36 terms of savings to the city of Lebanon. He estimates saving the city approximately \$14 million
37 through energy efficiency upgrades to the buildings because his position is also paired with the
38 facilities director coordinator. Mr. Jude Nuru joined the meeting.
39

40 **C) Education and Outreach**
41

42 Chair Luse said that the update for Education and Outreach will be covered under the next
43 agenda item.
44

45 **4) Keene Energy Week**
46

47 Chair Luse shared that Clean Energy Week has been set for October 21st through the 28th. There
48 are plans to do an Energy Fair on Railroad Square on the 28th from 10AM to 2PM. They will be
49 looking for volunteers for that day. Chair Luse plans to have someone reach out to the car
50 dealers.
51

52 They are requesting to spend up to \$350 to pay for reserving parking spots and any promotional
53 materials.
54

55 Councilor Bryan Lake asked if that was within their budget and whether there were funds
56 around. Chair Luse and Ms. Mari Brunner confirmed that there were available funds.

57 Mr. Paul Roth made a motion to propose spending \$350 of the budget on Keene Energy Week,
58 which Mr. Clair Oursler seconded. With unanimous approval, the motion was approved.
59

60 **5) Community Power Program Update**
61

62 Ms. Brunner shared that there was not much to report out on Community Power. She does not
63 have a report for numbers but believes that is because they will be doing another sweep in mid-
64 September. She explained that anyone who has moved into Keene or moved from one location to
65 another in Keene will go through the whole enrollment process. They will receive the same letter
66 that was sent during the initial round informing them that the program is coming and that they
67 will be automatically enrolled within the next month or so. It will have instructions on how to opt
68 out and how to go online to view the other available options.

69
70 She previously shared a flyer with the education group for new residents of Keene that explained
71 the process of joining for those who are proactive and interested in joining earlier. She is hopeful
72 that they will be getting another round of calls and interest from the public as these letters are
73 sent and received. She noted that they have also been contacted by the Clean Energy team who
74 are organizing the climate cafes as one of them will be on community power. She believed they
75 were still working to set a date but it sounded like it will be mid-November. She anticipates this
76 to be a good outreach opportunity.

77
78 Chair Luse shared that he spoke with the Chamber, and they have a packet that they send out to
79 new residents. They were willing to include the flyer Ms. Brunner shared. He believed that after
80 Energy Week is over, the education and outreach committee plan to reach out to realtors in the
81 area to see if they could get any of them to help with distributing them.

82
83 **6) Fall Retreat**

84
85 Chair Luse reminded the Committee that the fall retreat will be October 24th, 3:00PM to 6:00PM
86 at Stonewall Farm during Keene Energy Week. He shared that they have Sam Evans Brown from
87 Clean Energy New Hampshire to come and speak at the beginning of the retreat and anticipates it
88 to be a positive and inspirational discussion.

89
90 **7) Committee Membership**

91
92 Ms. Brunner shared that one committee member on their second term has graciously stayed on
93 the committee despite their term ending. She believed they have another member that will be
94 timing out and a few who have their first term coming up. She noted that if members are one of
95 those people, they will be reaching out to them individually.

96
97 If their first term is coming up this year and they are interested in continuing, they will
98 automatically be put on the list to be nominated and confirmed in January. If they are wishing to
99 bow out, they can just let Ms. Brunner or Chair Luse know, and they would not be placed for
100 nomination for a second term.

101
102 At current time, there are two slots open for alternate members. In the coming year, she
103 anticipates at least two, maybe three regular spots opening and noted that there was an interested
104 member in the audience.

105
106 Chair Luse invited Mr. Mike Winograd up to speak and introduce himself.

107
108 Mr. Winograd shared that he has a background in law enforcement and criminal justice. He was
109 on the United Nations Environment Program and Habitat based in Kenya as a deputy permanent
110 representative and is also running for city council in the city of Keene.

111 Mr. Winograd said he loved it here in Keene. He previously lived in another state. He has spent a
112 good portion of his life, 26 years, in the Foreign Service as a CIA Chief of Station operative. He
113 shared that he is glad to be here and desires to continue his work as a public servant and is
114 looking forward to joining this committee. He thanked the committee for their time and asked if
115 anyone had any questions.

116
117 Chair Luse thanked Mr. Winograd.

118
119 Ms. Beth Campbell shared that she and her partner are unexpectedly moving out of town this
120 fall. She will be drafting a letter of resignation but hopes that the committee will fill her spot
121 with someone who has the capacity to really be able to contribute to this important mission and
122 noted that she will miss everyone. She said serving on the committee with everyone has been a
123 fantastic experience.

124

125 **8) Monadnock Clean Energy Fair**

126

127 Monadnock Clean Energy Fair is on September 30th in Peterborough at the Community Center
128 from 10AM to 2PM. Chair Luse will try to get some flyers to Carolyn this week.

129

130 Councilor Ormerod said he will be resuming his radio show on November 18th and this will
131 provide an additional opportunity for PR.

132

133 Mr. Clair Oursler asked if there were people planning to carpool over to the Monadnock Energy
134 Fair.

135

136 **9) New Business**

137

138 No items of new business were raised at the meeting.

139

140 **10) Next Meeting:**

141

142 Chair Luse said that the next meeting will be Wednesday, October 4, 2023 at 8:00 am.

143

144 **11) Adjournment**

145

146 There being no further business, Chair Luse adjourned the meeting at 8:17 AM.

147

148 Respectfully submitted by,
149 Amanda Trask, Minute Taker

150

151 Reviewed and edited by,
152 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. 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: 09/13/2023
3. Recommendation(s)
(List any requested actions here. If no action is needed, you can put "informational")

Approval of solar buddy coaching program idea.

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)

Group Activities: We discussed the following items:

1. We discussed initiating a community solar buddy coaching program to guide interested local businesses to consider solar.
2. We discussed the goal of the solar buddy coaching program as providing value to interested businesses through coaching and solar site tour.
3. We identified 3 Keene-based businesses that have already installed solar to serve as a solar buddy namely, Filtrine Manufacturing, Paragon Digital, and 310 Marlborough St
4. We agreed to scale up the event/program if a pilot one becomes successful.
5. We discussed getting an update from the city on progress of the LOI(s) that had been signed for the city-owned sites for community solar.

Action Items: We then discussed the following action items:

1. Reach out to the owners of the three businesses we have identified to serve as a solar buddy.
2. Liaise with Hannah Grimes to identify businesses to receive coaching from a solar buddy.
3. Coordinate to fix dates for the coaching event and site tour.



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1. Name of Work Group: Education and Outreach
2. Date(s) that the work group met this month: 9/19/2023
3. Recommendation(s)
(List any requested actions here. If no action is needed, you can put "informational")

Volunteers needed for organizing events and tabling.

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)

The workgroup was very busy planning for Keene Energy Week and organizing tasks to be completed. We have a schedule which may have additional events added to it and the keeneenergyweek.com website has been updated with the details we currently have finalized. The group is working on getting organizations and businesses to attend the Energy Expo in Railroad Square along with local car dealers with EVs. We are seeking additional volunteers to help with tabling during Pumpkin Fest and the Energy Expo as well as organizing events for the week.



ECC Work Group Monthly report-out form

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1. Name of Work Group: Food Security
2. Date(s) that the work group met this month: Will next meet on 9/26/23
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)

Our focus group on converting lawns to garden will be Tuesday, 9/26. Agenda is as follows:

- * Connecting those with gardening space with those who want to garden: Shared Earth that connects land owners with gardeners. I created a profile, and though there's not many profiles in the area at this time, it is by far the most facile platform I've found for connecting folks around gardening.
- * Possibility of an annual eco-garden tour around the city that demonstrates how to attractively grow veggies and flowers and benefit pollinators. Michelle has been looking into funding and logistics for this.
- * Cheshire County Conservation District's Conservation Opportunity Fund is available to homeowners and businesses who are interested in pollinator, rain garden and wildlife habitat installations on small tracts of land.
- * There are a number of organizations that certify backyard habitats. UNH Cooperative Extension's certification program concentrates on pollinator habitat and National Wildlife Federation is focused on wildlife. Some Audubon Society chapters certify bird habitat, while North American Butterfly Association and Monarch Watch focus on butterflies
- * Asset mapping: how to resources and services for home gardeners, native plant sources, additional funding options, etc.

Additionally, a survey will be sent to local organizations serving the food insecure in preparation for our October focus group (date TBD).

Lastly, our food security and community solar work groups have briefly discussed the possibility of collaborating on agrovoltaic projects should lease options become available on the Legere family owned fields near Krif Road and the Cheshire Rail Trail.

September 05, 2023

Zach Luse
Chair
Energy and Climate Committee
3 Washington Street
Keene, NH 03431

RE: REQUEST FOR COMMENT – KEENE 41590; ROUTE 101 IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, KEENE, NH

Dear Mr. Zach Luse:

Comprehensive Environmental Inc. (CEI) is currently assisting the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) with proposed roadway improvements in Keene, NH. The Route 101 project begins east of Optical Avenue and continues approximately one mile to Branch Road (see attached location map).

The goal of the project is to provide better pedestrians and bicycle facilities, improve the Route 101 roadway structure, improve the condition of the bridge over the Branch River, and improve the safety at the intersection of Swanzey Factory Road. Route 101 upgrades may require rehabilitation/widening or replacing the existing bridge over the Branch River. According to 1933 as-built plans, the roadway base includes a 20-foot wide reinforced concrete pavement. Much of the corridor parallels, or is in the proximity of, the Branch River, and the Otter and Minnewawa Brooks.

The corridor serves as one of the gateways into the City of Keene, and the abutting properties reflect the diverse zoning along Route 101, which includes the City's industrial, commerce, high density, and rural zones. One of the primary design considerations is to improve the intersection sight distance deficiencies at the intersection of Swanzey Factory Road and Route 101. The design development will include an alternative evaluation of improving the intersection's safety and may include relocating the intersection. Swanzey Factory Road is also dedicated as a "Bicycle Street" in the City's complete streets guidelines and this project may be a means to improving bicycle operations in the area. Various alternatives for the corridor will be evaluated and will undergo a thorough review and analysis of their impact to traffic flow, right-of-way, and environmental resources.

The purpose of this letter is to solicit your initial input on the aforementioned proposed project. For your information, a Public Informational Meeting will be scheduled in the future, and you will be notified of the date, time and location. Responses are welcome prior to and/or following the Public Informational Meeting. Additional project information will be provided at the Meeting.

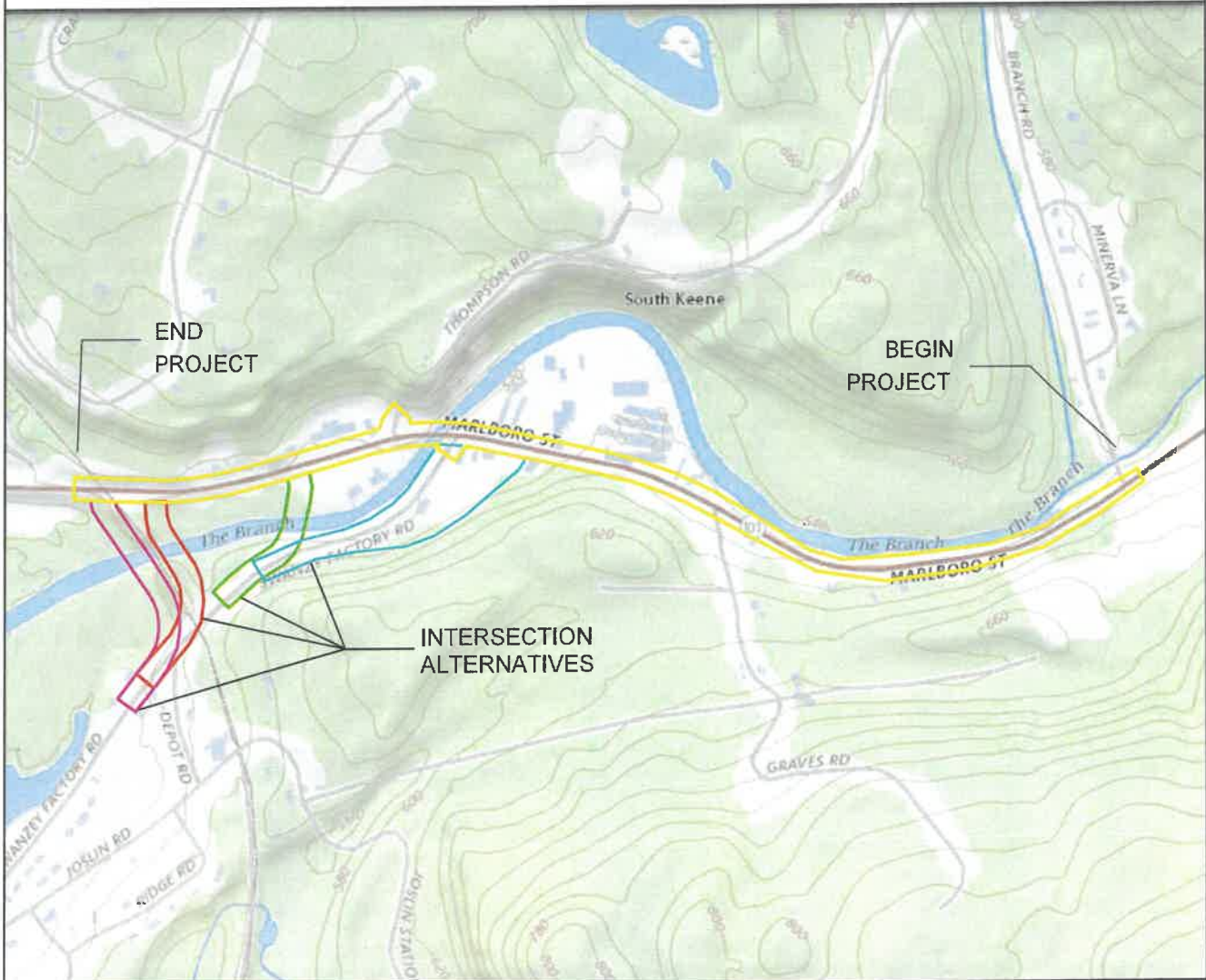
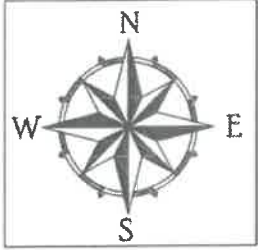
We would greatly appreciate your responding to this request and providing any comments related to the proposed rehabilitation project. We ask that you clearly identify your comments relative to each portion of the project. Please contact me if you have questions or require additional information at 603-424-8444 ext. 305.

Sincerely,
COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL INC

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew Lundsted". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matthew Lundsted, P.E.
Principal, Project Manager

Enclosure



GENERAL NOTES

1. Locus map based on USGS 7.5x7.5 Grid US Topo Map of Keene, NH from the USGS map webstore: <http://www.store.usgs.gov>
2. Map scale is relative to printed size

Figure 1
 USGS Locus Map
 NHDOT PROJECT NO. 41590
 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS
 & BRIDGE REHABILITATION,
 ROUTE 101, KEENE, NH



**COMPREHENSIVE
 ENVIRONMENTAL
 INCORPORATED**

21 Depot Street
 Merrimack, NH 03054

