

ADOPTED

City of Keene
New Hampshire

CITIES FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 3, 2016

8:00 AM

2nd Floor Conference Rm

Members Present:

Dr. Ann Shedd, Chair
Peter Hansel, Vice Chair (left at 8:47 AM)
Gary Lamoureaux, Councilor
Andrew Graham
Megan Straughen (left at 8:18 AM)
Mari Brunner (arrived at 8:09 AM)
Larry Dachowski, Alternate (arrived at 8:04 AM)
Dick Cornelius, Alternate

Staff Present:

Rhett Lamb, Planning Director
Yves Gakunde, Administrative Assistant

Members Not Present:

Terry Clark, Councilor

1) Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Shedd called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM and roll call was conducted.

2) Approval of Minutes – July 2016

Councilor Lamoureaux made a motion to approve the July minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Graham. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Chair Shedd asked Mr. Cornelius what he had to share. Mr. Cornelius stated that he has a poster to pass around and is seeking suggestions on where to hang it up. He continued that if people have ideas they can contact him.

3) Greenhouse Gas Report Update Presentation by Andrew Graham

Mr. Graham reported that the project is nearing completion. He continued that he is done with data completion and largely done with analysis unless they decide to look at the 1995 numbers more closely. Today's presentation is drawn from a presentation that he gave to a few of the department heads.

Mr. Cornelius arrived at 8:04 AM.

Mr. Graham explained that much of the data for the community inventory does not represent what is happening in Keene exactly, but is rather a reflection of the energy-related activities of a Keene-sized town in NH, taken from state-level data. Some of the numbers came directly from utilities, such as Eversource and Liberty Utilities.

He continued that he used ClearPath software from ICLEI, which is different than the software used in 2009 and 2014. ClearPath separates the emissions data in a slightly different way, so this methodology is quite different from the methodology used in the past. That is important to note. He does not know exactly how the 1995 numbers were crunched. That affects the comparisons of the numbers. He showed pie charts of the numbers, from 1995 and 2015. He continued that he has been trying to express the numbers graphically in a way similar to how they have been expressed before so it is familiar to folks.

Mr. Graham continued that the first important caveat is that the 1995 transportation number is significantly smaller than what is in the interim report. The disparity between the number he came up with using the data and methodology for this inventory was so different from the 1995 one that Mr. Lamb asked him to go back and get the raw 1995 data and use the same data points subjected to the same methodology. Doing that, he came up with this other transportation number that shows emissions are roughly the same as they were in 1995. There has been a little shift in the residential and commercial proportion of emissions. Those are percentages of state-level data/informed guesses. The 2015 inventory breaks the business world into two sections: commercial and industrial. There is a total decrease in emissions of a little over 15%, which is nice.

Mr. Graham showed a graph that shows that the goal was to reduce emissions 10% below the 1995 levels. He continued that the 1995 level is different than what is in the interim report from 2008 because he recalculated the transportation data. The reason this graph has a different total from the pie charts is because the three sectors in the pie charts are not the only three being measured.

Ms. Brunner arrived at 8:10 AM.

Mr. Graham continued that it is important to note that the municipal government line is a total of the municipal inventory and he did not include that as a slice in the pie. There are still some questions about the 1995 data. The numbers may change slightly.

Chair Shedd asked if it is true that the municipal slice is only a couple percent of the total. Mr. Graham replied yes, it is a small slice. He continued that Solid Waste numbers are completely different because the City has a completely different Solid Waste system than 20 years ago. Process and Fugitive is a new category which accounts for gas that leaks out of pipelines and transmissions and distribution losses like in electrical systems.

Mr. Graham showed pie charts of energy use related to emissions. He continued that energy use has declined just over 4%. The transportation sector's energy use has

decreased, probably due to more efficient transportation. Residential and commercial sectors are default percentages, as he explained earlier, of the share of NH's energy use that belongs to Keene. Those may or may not accurately reflect Keene. But this shows an increase in residential energy use, which is true everywhere and may be due to the increase in energy-hungry devices in homes. Commercial energy use has decreased, probably due to a switch from fuel oil use to propane use.

Mr. Graham continued that the City's emissions have decreased by about 9%. The methodology for the analysis is significantly different. Anyone who has touched one of these inventories before has confirmed that it is very difficult to do these comparisons. The conclusion is that the City is doing well. The City has a reputation for being a leader in emissions reductions. The Mayor received an award yesterday for this. It is time to start thinking about new GHG reduction goals. Regardless of whether or not the City has officially achieved the goal it is important to set a more ambitious goal and move forward because it seems as though they are almost there. There are some action steps in the Climate Action Plan (CAP) and there is a great section about proposed actions for the City to take, and whether or not those items have been implemented.

He continued that for him, having looked at the numbers, he has found that it is sometimes difficult to tell stories using numbers. Going forward it may be useful to look more in the shorter term and also at individual projects and efforts that are happening in the City and community and seek to find those metrics, which will be easier to find and compare and understand. This would be particularly helpful for folks in the Public Works Department (PWD) who have been doing a lot to make things more efficient. Looking at projects would tell a more understandable story.

Mr. Graham concluded his presentation with an Acknowledgments list of many of the people who have helped him with this project.

Ms. Straughen left at 8:18 AM.

Mr. Hansel asked if Mr. Graham was able to compare the data from Eversource and Liberty to corroborate the NH-wide data. Mr. Graham replied no. He continued that the Eversource number would be the one to look at. The Liberty number is a proportion of the propane used. Mostly in this area it is supplied by a dozen or more private companies so there is no real way to get an accurate number.

Mr. Hansel stated that he was struck by what Mr. Graham was saying about the shift from oil to propane. He asked if that has been corroborated by any other numbers. Mr. Graham replied not in an analytical way, but he has been speaking to local people for two years about energy and he sees a shift in the residential sector to propane systems. Mr. Lamb replied institutional, too – three major campuses have shifted in the past 5 years.

Mr. Hansel stated that he was also struck by the 2008 anomaly (re: transportation) and he is having a hard time understanding why that was so different, despite the change in methodology. Mr. Graham replied that looking at that data was sort of outside the scope

of this project. He continued that he has the same questions and would like to know what their data sources and calculations were. Since he is not a data analyst by trade it is difficult for him to pull the numbers out. He tried to do a little analysis of the vehicle miles traveled in that inventory because the transportation methodology was so different, but ultimately, since the comparison is truly between 1995 and 2015 he focused on looking at those numbers more in depth. Ms. Brunner stated that Jonathan Nelson did the data analysis for 2008 and he was able to explain some of the data to her. He is a data analyst and it was hard to follow.

Mr. Lamb replied that the root of the number is vehicle miles traveled as defined by the Southwest Regional Planning Commission (SWRPC). He continued that Mr. Graham is on the right track – it really comes down to what the numbers initially said in 1995, 2008, and 2015. If the numbers are tracking similarly, increasing and decreasing similar to NH, the problem is not the raw data, it is how it is being processed. They might not have time for this, since Mr. Graham is running out of time for this project, but he wants to get to the bottom of it, too.

Mr. Hansel asked if there is a way to measure the activity level of 1995 and 2015. For example, if the population increased but energy use stayed the same, that would be a big story. They do not know what the effect of commercial growth has been, between 1995 and the present. Mr. Lamb replied that actually, they do – they just have not looked at it very in depth. He continued that they counted a million and a half square feet of new commercial growth since 1995, including expansions of the school district and hospital. So if there is an energy decrease in spite of the commercial growth there is clearly efficiency, and efficient buildings. But there is more going on than just efficiency. It has to be the fuel itself, which produces a lower carbon footprint. Mr. Graham has drawn accurate conclusions about more efficient fuel.

Mr. Graham added that the population has increased by about 450 since 1995. He continued that Mr. Hansel's question really gets at the final point of his conclusion. People want to hear small stories. They want to know if one institution has tracked its own energy use, so they can relate to it. The large numbers are useful to think about Keene as a whole and compare to places they know, like Brattleboro, but Mr. Hansel's question really gets to: where does this come from, and who is doing it? That is the real story. Maybe Keene State College (KSC) or the hospital has been tracking their data and they could show their own personal story, for example.

Mr. Dachowski stated that it is really hard to get good comparable data overall. He continued that it is also hard to get your head around such big numbers. But the data on municipal changes is quite good data. You can say, "for example," and pull out the municipal data that they have a lot of confidence in. Maybe they have data from the hospital or KSC also that they could feel comfortable with.

Ms. Brunner asked if Mr. Graham calculated the per capita data and tried to compare to other cities. Mr. Graham replied that that has been calculated but not compared.

Mr. Maslansky asked, regarding the transportation data, if there has been discussion about, in that 1995 to 2015 time period, the corridors that have been improved, like Route 9 and other main routes. Is there a lot more commuting than there was? Are the commutes longer? Does this have an impact?

Mr. Graham replied that according to the data from traffic counts there was a slight decrease in miles driven. He continued that a factor that could be refined is the change in road classes. He asked the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) if they could come up with the miles of road classes that existed in 1995 and they said they would look. Chair Shedd replied that that makes it challenging to compare this area to the rest of the state. Other areas have a higher proportion of the state's traffic than Keene does. But it is a beginning.

Mr. Hansel asked if a portion of the transportation drop is due to more efficient cars. Mr. Graham replied yes. He continued that the methodology he used for the data was vehicle miles traveled and miles per gallon (MPG). The MPG numbers have changed quite a bit from 1995. But they are compared to the vehicle miles traveled. He showed a chart of Keene's miles of local roads and arterial roads, and agreed with Mr. Lamb that the increase in arterial roads from 1995 to 2015 was a minor change.

The committee thanked Mr. Graham for his work. Mr. Lamb stated that Mr. Graham has gone above and beyond – he has really stuck with the work, even working in between funding sources. He continued that he has done a lot of quality work.

Chair Shedd stated that this will not be presented to the City Council tomorrow, and the presentation needs to be rescheduled. Brief discussion ensued. Mr. Lamb stated that it will either be September 1 or September 8 – staff will get back to them on that. Chair Shedd asked how they should integrate a longer vision of future targets. She continued that the CCP can report on progress about the 2015 target but may not have its vision of the future by that meeting. Mr. Lamb replied that that is okay. He continued that the intent was not to go any further than this report. Deciding on a new the target is a different job and the CCP will need to work on that. That is above and beyond what Mr. Graham was assigned. Chair Shedd replied that they can devote time at next meeting for discussing what their process will be.

Ms. Brunner stated that they can look at updating the CAP from 2004, which is now over 10 years out of date. Mr. Lamb replied yes, that is what they are doing. They want to be a little more than general about what the City can reasonably achieve. Councilor Lamoureux asked if they can tell the City Council that they will look at updating the plan. Chair Shedd replied that it might be 2017 when the CCP has new recommendations.

Mr. Graham stated that his biggest recommendation is to have a smaller time frame, such as five years. Mr. Lamb replied that the goals and targets have to be more aspirational. He continued that they want to choose something that connects to the broader picture of how it is being addressed around the world and choose targets they can achieve in a

shorter timeframe. Graham replied yes, they should have both. Chair Shedd noted that the CAP calls for an annual GHG Inventory Report, which is too much.

Scott Maslansky asked how well Mr. Graham documented his data collection methods and methodology for analysis, so that the next person can follow the same methods. Mr. Graham replied that he did that well - ClearPath provides a notes field, and the data is kept in an Excel workbook. He continued that having understood the necessity of talking with someone who did this in the past, he will make an effort to keep in touch.

Chair Shedd stated that she likes Mr. Graham's point about telling a story. That is the other piece they need to discuss. How do they take this information to the community? A small number of people will see the City Council meeting live or on TV but it would be great to bring it to the community in an engaging form, tying it into what people can do to keep the momentum going. She asked Ms. Brunner if the Communications Working Group has any further thoughts about what kind of presentations the CCP could do.

Ms. Brunner replied that they were thinking more of having events, with a topic to explore more deeply. If they wanted to do one about GHG emissions they could invite a business owner who switched from oil to propane to talk about how and why, or City folks who have made changes, etc., to show smaller success stories as examples of the larger pictures. The working group's idea was to have a forum of some sort.

Mr. Maslansky stated that it would make sense to coordinate with Local Energy Solutions and other organizations and entities that focus on case studies. He continued that there might be existing stories already that might be more about energy reduction but they could take it to the next level about emissions. He is happy to help make that connection. Mr. Hansel replied that collaboration with other groups is the way to go.

Mr. Lamb stated that Keene has had enough recognition over the past 15 years, with the progress the city has made, to attract attention. He continued that they should think about a bigger audience. They get calls from all over the country. There could be two versions of presentation materials – one for local folks and one for the broader picture of how they are proceeding in a national stage. Councilor Lamoureux stated that they could do a roll up of all of Keene's awards and accomplishments, at the end of this presentation.

Chair Shedd asked if the working group wants to suggest a time frame for putting together a community forum or if the CCP wants to think about it in more detail and then send it back to the working group. Mr. Graham replied that there is a solid model for these community forums that is currently being implemented online, the National Issues Forum, funded by Kennedy Foundation.

Mr. Hansel stated that a 9% reduction is a great example for others, compared to what other communities are doing. He suggests a press release to local media, after the presentation, to showcase the City's accomplishments. Ms. Brunner agreed. She continued that they should see if there is another organization willing to help them with the forum, such as Antioch University New England (AUNE) or KSC where there is a lot

of interest in this subject. Councilor Lamoureux asked if it makes sense to have a panel, with maybe AUNE and the SWRPC and others.

Mr. Maslansky stated that the Local Energy Solutions conference is in November and they are developing speakers now. There will be shorter sessions, too. It might be good to include this in some way. Mr. Lamb replied that they can send somebody. Mr. Maslansky stated that he will try and get more information and think through where it could fit.

Mr. Hansel left at 8:47 AM.

Mr. Lamb stated that this inventory report could be inspirational for others. He continued that the inventory is what inspired the City to look at what they were doing for energy. It is an amazing tool to encourage behavior changes.

Mr. Dachowski stated that professionals whose work deals with behavior changes say that to change something, you have to measure it. He continued that a future goal should be better ongoing data collection, so a person does not have to crunch 5 or 10 years of data in a few months. Future reports would be easier to produce and interim reports could be motivational tools.

Mr. Lamb replied that the City's data collection methods are now more automated than ever. Councilor Lamoureux agreed and added that there are huge cost savings by tracking it via software. Mr. Maslansky asked if a push to get more benchmarking completed would get them closer to being able to use the EPA software that would look at trends within the city. Mr. Lamb replied that that is in discussions.

Councilor Lamoureux stated that he likes the idea of testimonies, but the majority of businesses here are small. Chair Shedd replied that they can represent different scales. She continued that it sounds like they should continue discussing the forum at their meeting next month. The working group may have time to meet and talk about it beforehand. Brief discussion ensued, and Ms. Brunner, Mr. Graham, and Councilor Lamoureux stated that they will talk after this meeting to schedule that.

4) Report Back: Communications Working Group – Community Presentation/s
Covered in previous agenda item.

5) Report Back: Annual CCP Update Report to Planning, Licenses, and Development Committee
Chair Shedd stated that they will talk about this next month.

6) Report Back: C-PACE Presentation to Staff
Chair Shedd asked Mr. Maslansky for an update on the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) Program. Mr. Maslansky stated that he wrote something up for Ms. Chalice. He continued that the Town of Hanover adopted the program in May, and he is now working on the agreement for the Town and the Jordan Institute to adopt.

People had questions about how the municipality enforces the tax lien and what happens if someone does not pay that special assessment on the tax bill. They are diving back into that to address people's concerns and they came up with a new solution, which the tax collectors seem okay with. He had spoken with Keene. The enforcement of taxes was the main concern. He is going back to Hanover and once the municipal attorney is okay with the agreement it opens the door for other NH communities. He has started the process of speaking with tax folks more. Once he talks with City staff they will see if they can get it to the City Council. There are still questions about whether the tax software can change to fit C-PACE. They have some prospects in Hanover they are talking to about potential projects and there are some on the back burner in Keene. They hope C-PACE can help in Concord when many people are looking to switch to natural gas. They are trying to help use CPACE as a tool to help expand the scope of projects.

Chair Shedd stated that in California, for example, it was almost large scale from the get-go, diving right into residential, whereas in Keene it would maybe be a couple (commercial) properties a year. She continued that that would not overwhelm the tax office with tons of new paperwork. It would allow comprehensive projects.

Mr. Maslansky explained that if someone wants a new boiler, if that is financed through a regular loan they will not have capital or the ability to do other projects. C-PACE offers the opportunity to look at it more holistically, and to get buildings up to snuff in one shot that will last for a longer period. Just a couple buildings a year can progressively have significant impacts. Chair Shedd stated that the City is doing good things with the new building code but this addresses intentional improvements in existing buildings.

Ms. Brunner asked why they are not looking at residential, and if that will be further down the road. Mr. Maslansky replied that many cities and states have jumped right into residential. He continued that with that there is money to be made from a lot of different people, but quality of projects is important, too, and it is good to have checks and balances. There is a lot of effort to just do tons of projects but not a lot of oversight. The Jordan Institute is concerned about not jumping in too much and wants checks and balances. Once they have a solid base they may look into residential.

7) AUNE Climate Center Updates

Mr. Graham stated that he does not have an update. Yves Gakunde stated that the Climate Center is working on a business plan because they want to plan for next year.

8) Resources: Town of Durham Energy Master Plan & Energy Committee Overview

Chair Shedd stated that in the agenda packets is a resource Ms. Chalice included – Durham's Energy Plan, which is part of their Master Plan. She asked if it is true that Keene does not have an energy plan as part of the Master Plan. Mr. Lamb replied that that is correct; the CAP is not the same thing.

Chair Shedd stated that she spoke with Mr. Blomquist about having someone from the PWD come talk to the CCP about the vulnerability assessment they are doing/did, and

how it ties into the climate adaptation targets. They are talking about climate mitigation right now. So maybe they will defer his presentation. Councilor Lamoureux replied that the hazard mitigation plan has been completed. Mr. Lamb replied that he is not sure it is been adopted. Chair Shedd replied that they are just trying to stay in the loop about the mitigation and adaptation parts of the plan. Discussion ensued about the hazard mitigation plan's history.

Chair Shedd stated that if anyone has thoughts about presenters/presentations for the CCP, they can let her or Ms. Chalice know. Councilor Lamoureux asked about the Mayor. Chair Shedd replied yes, that is on the list. Mr. Lamb stated that the City has been approached by a company about installing solar. Ms. Brunner stated that SWRPC has an intern working with the Monadnock Alliance for Sustainable Transportation (MAST) to do a report on car-sharing, which is a topic that came out of the CCP about a year ago. She continued that she is a KSC student and will be around at least in the fall.

9) Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Chair Shedd adjourned the meeting at 9:03 AM.

Respectfully Submitted by
Britta Reida, Minute-taker