



ENERGY & CLIMATE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, December 1, 2021, 8:00 AM

City Hall, Second Floor Council Chambers

TO JOIN THE MEETING:

The public may join the meeting online or at City Hall in the **2nd Floor Council Chambers**. To join the meeting online, please visit www.zoom.us/join or call (646) 558-8656 and enter the Meeting ID: **860 6322 7039**.*

Members:

Peter Hansel, Chair
Cary Gaunt, Vice Chair
Ken Dooley
Councilor Raleigh Ormerod
Jake Pipp
Jude Nuru
Paul Roth
Zach Luse

Suzanne Butcher
Bryan Lake
Andrew Dey
Clair Oursler, Alternate

Staff:

Mari Brunner, Planner

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes – November 3, 2021 Meeting
3. Energy Plan Work Group Report-outs
 - a. Weatherization
 - b. Home Energy Labeling
 - c. Electric Vehicles
 - d. Community Solar
4. Planning for ECC Annual Retreat
5. Community Power Update
6. Legislative Updates
 - a. PUC Order on 2021–2023 Triennial Energy Efficiency Plan and Implementation of Energy Efficiency Programs ([Order 26,533](#), issued November 12, 2021)
7. New Business
8. Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 5, 2021
9. Adjourn

Link to ECC Google Drive Folder:

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

** A Zoom link and call in info is provided as a public service; however, the public body will meet in person with a quorum present at the location, date and time contained in this notice. If for any reason the Zoom link or call in info does not work, the public meeting will continue in person.*

1 City of Keene
2 New Hampshire

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5 ENERGY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE
6 MEETING MINUTES
7

Wednesday, November 3, 2021

8:00 AM

Council Chambers,
City Hall

Members Present:

Peter Hansel, Chair
Cary Gaunt, Vice Chair
Ken Dooley
Jake Pipp (Zoom)
Jude Nuru (Zoom)
Paul Roth (Zoom)
Suzanne Butcher (Zoom)
Bryan Lake
Andrew Dey
Hillary Ballantine, Alternate (Zoom)
Clair Oursler, Alternate

Staff Present:

Mari Brunner, Planner

Members Not Present:

Zach Luse
Councilor Raleigh Ormerod

8
9 1) Call to Order and Roll Call

10 Chair Hansel called the meeting to order at 8:06 AM. And roll call was conducted.
11

12 2) Approval of Minutes – October 6, 2021 Meeting

13 *Bryan Lake moved to approve the October 6 meeting minutes, Ken Dooley seconded*
14 *and the motion was passed unanimously by a roll call vote.*
15

16 3) Energy Plan Work Group Report-outs

17 A) **Weatherization-** Chair Hansel tabled this agenda item, noting that Zach Luse is
18 not present to provide an update. This will be discussed at next month's meeting.
19

20 B) **Home energy labeling-** Mr. Dey stated that the home energy labeling group has
21 continued their efforts to reach out to the realtor community. He said that Mr. Pipp put
22 together a document including notes, comments, and suggestions that they will use as
23 talking points in their discussions with realtors. He said the document is available on the
24 Google Drive. Mr. Dey stated that the group also updated each other on their
25 conversations with realtors. He said he spoke to Commissioner Terry Clark who is also a

26 realtor through Masiello Realty, and he was enthusiastic about home energy labeling. He
27 spoke to Ms. Nancy Proctor from Masiello to see if they could arrange to have
28 representatives from the working group attend the Masiello monthly meetings. Ms.
29 Proctor was open to the idea. Commissioner Clark also proposed that working group
30 members attend a monthly meeting of the Monadnock Board of Realtors, an umbrella
31 group for local realtors, to solicit feedback about the home energy labeling initiative. He
32 stated that they also discussed the program itself and questions and concerns, for
33 example, the quality of the evaluations, their accuracy and finding a balance between
34 accuracy and what is achievable. They are leaning towards using data that is readily
35 available from the Home Energy Labeling Exchange (HELIX). Chair Hansel asked if
36 members had any questions.

37
38 **C) Electric vehicles (EV)-** Councilor Lake stated that the EV group discussed
39 contacting the plaza owners around town about charger installation, for example,
40 Hannaford's Plaza is owned by a Massachusetts-based LLC, and they are difficult to get
41 a hold of. They will continue trying. They also discussed the possibility that the
42 Monadnock Sustainability Hub will be working with the Peterborough Police Department
43 about transitioning their fleet to EVs which could provide incentive for the Keene Police
44 Department (KPD). Councilor Lake stated that they discussed the continuing effort to
45 secure the VW funds by local groups and businesses. Mr. Roth mentioned that there may
46 be an opportunity to place EV chargers and solar panels at the new hospital location. He
47 emphasized that placing the two together is important as that will increase grid strength
48 and help generate the electricity to power the EV charging. He stated that he put together
49 a rough draft for residential and nonresidential properties, including recommendations,
50 and he will continue working on adding the solar information into the document and
51 hopes to collaborate with the solar team on that.

52 Chair Hansel added that one issue with having chargers installed at commercial or
53 industrial sites is the demand charge. He said at the state and federal levels, there is
54 concern over preventing penalization for having charging stations. He asked about the
55 City's plans for electrifying their fleet, for example the police fleet. Ms. Brunner shared
56 that she spoke to the City Fleet Manager about electrifying the City's vehicle fleet last
57 year; however, they recognized too many barriers at the time to pursue it. Instead, they
58 will monitor the situation and keep the possibility open of getting EVs in the future. Chair
59 Hansel asked Mr. Dooley if the school district has considered an EV fleet. Mr. Dooley
60 responded that they have not investigated it too much as they have heavier vehicles in
61 operation.

62 **D) Community solar-** Chair Hansel stated that the group is focusing on finding sites
63 for community solar arrays. He said that City GIS Technician Mr. Schoefmann created a
64 map showing the locations of potential solar arrays in residential and nonresidential
65 areas. They would like to develop a solar resource inventory that include potential sites as
66 well as existing sites. The potential sites require more investigation. Chair Hansel
67 displayed a map of solar array sites, with green pins showing municipal or industrial sites

68 and the red pins show the residential arrays. He said there are a few solar arrays that were
69 installed this year that have not been placed on the map yet, however, it provides a good
70 idea of what things look like currently in the city. Mr. Schoefmann will help to digitize
71 the map so there is an electronic version available. Chair Hansel stated that there are a
72 couple of sites that have the potential for community solar arrays and one of them is at
73 the end of Optical Avenue, and the other is located behind Antioch University that is
74 owned by the city. There are also several others that have the acreage and three phase
75 power nearby but ownership needs to be clarified. They are concentrating on three phase
76 power sites as of now. A guest asked about the Kingsbury property and Chair Hansel
77 replied that the ownership is problematic, but they are keeping the possibility on the
78 horizon.

79 Vice Chair Gaunt stated that she has been working with a church on an RFP for solar
80 installations and it may be helpful for the committee to provide RFP templates to other
81 community entities as a toolkit for the different sectors. Chair Hansel agreed that is a
82 great idea as the process can be daunting. He said the Monadnock Sustainability Hub has
83 some templates available. Mr. Dey added that Vital Communities in the Upper Valley
84 have put together toolkits already and many of those resources are available on their
85 website. Councilor Lake stated that this would tie into the solar and EV piece as well.

86 **4) Committee Membership**

87 Chair Hansel stated that it is time to start thinking about committee membership for next
88 year. Ms. Gaunt will not continue as a member, as well as Ms. Ballantine. Ms. Brunner
89 said that leaves one regular position and two alternate positions open. She said the City
90 will send an email to first termers whose terms are up in December to ask if they would
91 like to continue for a second term. Chair Hansel encouraged those up for a second term to
92 continue. He said after two terms you are required to take a year off. He also encouraged
93 members to submit any names for new members. Ms. Brunner stated that on the City of
94 Keene Boards page there is a link at the top to access the new member interest form.
95 Once that is completed and submitted, someone from the city will contact interested
96 individuals. Vice Chair Gaunt stated that Ms. Duffy from KSC is very interested in
97 becoming a member. She will send her the information link. Councilor Lake asked if they
98 are looking for individuals with a specific skillset or expertise. Chair Hansel replied that
99 important criteria are maintaining gender equity, as they are losing to female members,
100 and representation from some major players in the region is also desirable. Ms. Gillard
101 encouraged new members to call if they do not hear back from the city quickly.

102
103 **5) Community Power Update**

104 Chair Hansel stated that the PUC has 60 days to start acting on the community power
105 proposal. If they do not act, the application is automatically approved. Ms. Brunner stated
106 that the community power law was signed at the end of August. There is one more step
107 that must take place before the city can launch the program and that involves the
108 rulemaking process through the PUC.
109

110 **6) Legislative Updates**

111 Ms. Brunner stated that HB549 which ECC commented on in the spring has come back.
112 It went to the House Science, Technology, and Energy Committee for a hearing on
113 October 12, however, the bill sponsor introduced an amendment at the beginning of the
114 hearing. People who attended to comment on the bill did not have a chance to review the
115 amended version in time to comment on it. The committee was opposed in the spring as it
116 would damage the energy programs in the state. She said the bill was initially focused on
117 removing industrial customers from the energy efficiency programs and that was a big
118 part of why everyone was opposed to the bill, so she is unsure about the status of the bill
119 now. Chair Hansel noted that they should continue to monitor this bill as it could
120 negatively impact many elements of energy efficiency in the city. He added that these
121 types of bills can detract from investors and contractors.
122

123 **7) New Business**

124 Chair Hansel stated that Mr. Lamb and Ms. Kessler are retiring their positions with the
125 city which will leave Ms. Brunner less time to engage with committee activities. Ms.
126 Brunner noted that bigger projects will require more independence from committee
127 members or an intern. Chair Hansel stated that in the past ECC has tried to secure
128 budgetary funds for a Sustainability Coordinator position but were not successful. He
129 said they can perhaps think about pursuing that opportunity again to help Ms. Brunner
130 with the workload.
131

132 **8) Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 1, 2021**

133 Chair Hansel stated that a high school student will deliver a presentation on plastics to the
134 committee at next month's meeting.
135

136 **9) Adjournment**

137
138 There being no further business, Chair Hansel adjourned the meeting at 9:15 AM.
139

140 Respectfully submitted by,
141 Ayshah Kassamali-Fox, Minute Taker
142

143 Reviewed and edited by,
144 Mari Brunner, Planner

Table of Solar installs with graph

Year Installed	Residential		Commercial/Industrial	
	count	kW (AC)	count	kW (AC)
2009	3	10.1	1	2
2010	4	18.9	0	0
2011	1	3.5	1	10
2012	3	13.3	0	0
2013	3	13.7	3	169.09
2014	3	17.0	0	0
2015	6	27.6	1	18
2016	15	95.5	6	583.5
2017	16	98.6	3	31.65
2018	7	57.0	6	804.63
2019	32	230.2	8	1116.3
2020	23	151.4	5	233.4
TOTAL	116	736.9	34	2968.57

