



ENERGY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE

Agenda: Annual Retreat

March 15, 2022 | 12-2pm

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
Linsey Edmunds

Councilor Bryan Lake
Beth Campbell
Clair Oursler, Alternate

Staff

Mari Brunner, Senior Planner
Chris Cusack, Contract Planner

AGENDA

I Welcome and Introductions

II "State of the Committee"

- Review of Energy Plan
- Progress over the past year

III SWOT Analysis

- Strengths / Weaknesses / Opportunities / Threats

Break

IV Priorities for 2022-2023

- What are our goals for the upcoming year?
 - How should they be prioritized?

V Culminating Questions

- What should the ECC **start** doing?
- What should the ECC **stop** doing?
- What should the ECC **keep** doing?

VI Monadnock Earth Festival – April 23, 2022

VI Wrap-up and Next Steps

VII Adjournment

DIVISION 19. ENERGY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE¹

Sec. 2-1088. Purpose.

In order to protect Keene's public health, safety and welfare, as well as the economic vitality of the community, the energy and climate committee exists to:

- (1) Monitor and advocate for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions,
- (2) Promote energy conservation and efficiency, as well as the use and production of renewable energy, and
- (3) Increase awareness of and resilience to the expected impacts of a changing climate.

(Ord. No. O-2005-03-A, 4-7-2005; Ord. No. O-2010-17, 9-16-2010; Ord. No. O-2018-04-A, 4-5-2018 ; Ord. No. O-2019-07-A, 4-18-2019)

Sec. 2-1089. Membership.

The energy and climate committee shall consist of 11 regular voting members, one of whom shall be a member of the city council, all of whom represent a cross section of organizations, institutions, businesses and interests in the city. Membership shall not be restricted to residents of the city.

(Ord. No. O-2005-03-A, 4-7-2005; Ord. No. O-2007-10, 6-6-2007; Ord. No. O-2010-17, 9-16-2010; Ord. No. O-2013-9, 12-5-2013; Ord. No. O-2018-04-A, 4-5-2018; Ord. No. O-2019-07-A, 4-18-2019; Ord. No. O-2020-05, 3-19-2020)

Sec. 2-1090. Terms.

Members shall be appointed for three-year terms.

(Ord. No. O-2005-03-A, 4-7-2005; Ord. No. O-2018-04-A, 4-5-2018 ; Ord. No. O-2019-07-A, 4-18-2019)

Sec. 2-1091. Relation to department.

The community development department will provide staff support to the energy and climate committee. Other departments may be called upon as necessary.

(Ord. No. O-2005-03-A, 4-7-2005; Ord. No. O-2018-04-A, 4-5-2018 ; Ord. No. O-2019-07-A, 4-18-2019)

¹Editor's note(s)—Ord. No. O2018-04-A, adopted April 5, 2018, amended the title of div. 19 to read as herein set out. Formerly said division was entitled "Cities for Climate Protection Committee".

Sec. 2-1092. Functions and guidelines.

The functions and guidelines in this section are established for the conduct of the energy and climate committee. The committee shall:

- (1) Coordinate the goals and measures of the local action climate plan in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase the community's adaptive capacity;
- (2) Update the local climate action plan and greenhouse gas inventory as deemed necessary;
- (3) Promote the awards and recognitions the city and community members have received for outstanding work in the climate protection arena;
- (4) Promote and report the successes and efforts of the committee to the council and community on a regular basis;
- (5) Advise city council on matters pertaining to the local climate action plan and sustainable practices such as energy conservation, energy efficiency, and energy generation and zoning practices;
- (6) Advise city council on matters pertaining to the city's interest at the state and national level in climate change policy;
- (7) Assist the city with community outreach and education for the local climate action plan by bringing the benefits of the plan to the attention of the public through educational materials, presentations, and other methods;
- (8) Assist with preparation of grant applications and pursue other funding mechanisms to implement the goals and measures of the local action plan;
- (9) Receive gifts and donations in the name of the city with prior approval of the city council; and
- (10) Perform such other related functions as required by the city council or as requested by the city manager.

(Ord. No. O-2005-03-A, 4-7-2005; Ord. No. O-2010-17, 9-16-2010; Ord. No. O-2018-04-A, 4-5-2018 ; Ord. No. O-2019-07-A, 4-18-2019)

Keene Sustainable Energy Plan

Vision: In 2050, the City of Keene will be a thriving and resilient community powered by affordable, clean, and renewable energy. All electricity and energy used for heating, cooling, and transportation will come from renewable energy sources.



Electricity



Thermal



Transportation



Learn More

To learn more about specific tools and strategies to help us achieve our community's energy goals, please visit KeeneEnergyPlan.com.

Contact us

City of Keene, New Hampshire
Community Development Department
City Hall, 4th Floor
3 Washington Street
Keene, NH 03431
Email: communitydevelopment@ci.keene.nh.us
Phone: 603-352-5440



Electricity

Goal: 100 percent of electricity used in Keene will come from renewable energy sources by 2030.

How:

1. Reduce electricity use for buildings in all sectors.
2. Increase renewable energy generation and storage.
3. Procure renewable energy to meet remaining electricity demand.
4. Advocate at federal, state, and county levels.

Strategies

Access Renewable Energy Loans

Keene can partner with a local bank or credit union to help residents secure affordable finance options for renewable energy projects like home solar.

Develop a Battery Storage Program

Keene and Eversource can work together to start a program to reduce electricity demand charges by using electricity stored in batteries.

Community Power Programs

Through Community Power, Keene can make a bulk purchase of energy for residents and businesses, which can help ratepayers get lower rates while adding more renewables to the energy portfolio.

Solar-ready Guidelines

Keene can adopt solar-ready guidelines to make sure that new buildings are designed to accommodate solar now and in the future.

Community Power: Medford, MA

"We're buying the electricity in bulk for the entire city. The city basically does that for your water. Why can't they do it for your electricity?"
--Denis MacDougall, City of Medford, MA



[Listen to learn more about Community Power Programs](#)



Learn more at [KeeneEnergyPlan.com](https://www.keeneenergyplan.com)



Thermal

Goal: 100 percent of all thermal energy consumed in Keene will come from renewables by 2050.

How:

1. Reduce thermal energy use for buildings in all sectors.
2. Increase local renewable energy generation and storage.
3. Encourage fuel switching to renewable fuel sources.
4. Advocate at federal, state, and county levels.

Strategies

Expand Weatherization

By partnering with existing programs, Keene can help residents take advantage of rebates and incentives that make weatherizing your home more affordable.

Kickstart Heat Smart

Bulk discount pricing on thermal technologies can make upgrading your home heating and cooling systems more accessible and affordable.

Start a Benchmarking Program

Measuring the energy efficiency of commercial and municipal buildings can help Keene identify which buildings can benefit from efficiency upgrades.

Start a Home Energy Labeling Program

Knowing the energy efficiency scores of Keene homes and apartments can help you make an informed decision when buying or renting a home.

Home Energy Labeling, City of Montpelier, VT

"If you wouldn't buy a car without knowing the gas mileage, why would you buy a house without knowing effectively what the gas mileage is of that house?"

--Anne Watson, Mayor of Montpelier, VT



[Listen to learn more about Home Energy Labeling](#) 

Learn more at [KeeneEnergyPlan.com](https://www.KeeneEnergyPlan.com)



Transportation

Goal: 100 percent of all energy used for transportation will come from renewables by 2050.

How:

1. Reduce the total vehicle miles traveled in Keene.
2. Accelerate the shift to electric vehicles and other alternative fuel vehicles.
3. Promote efficient growth patterns.
4. Advocate at federal, state, and county levels.

Strategies

Expand and Improve City Express Bus Services

Expanding service hours and the number of bus stops can increase ridership and better serve the needs of Keene residents.

Adopt EV-Ready Guidelines

The City can adopt EV-ready guidelines to make sure that new developments are designed to accommodate EV chargers now and in the future.

Create a Multi-modal Transportation Center

A multi-modal transportation center in Keene can be a central hub for bus transit, bike transit, car-sharing, electric vehicle (EV) charging, and more.

Advocacy

Keene can advocate for more federal and state funding to support public transportation, and educate community members and decision-makers about its benefits.

Expand the Complete Streets Program

Keene streets can be accessible and safe for all users, including drivers, pedestrians, people with disabilities, bicyclists, seniors, and youth.



[Listen to learn more about vehicle electrification in Keene.](#)



Learn more at [KeeneEnergyPlan.com](https://www.keeneenergyplan.com)

	Tool / Strategy	Description	Sector(s)	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
Energy Efficiency	Benchmarking Program	Encourage building owners of certain sizes or in certain districts to report energy use data to the City.	Electricity, Thermal	City of Keene	Business community, large energy users	1-2 years
	Home Energy Labeling Program	Encourage energy efficiency disclosure for existing and new residential properties at the time a property is listed for rent or sale.	Electricity, Thermal	City of Keene	Association of Realtors, NEEP	1-2 years
	Weatherization Program	Partner with existing weatherization programs to enhance public outreach and education, amplify impact, and increase capacity.	Electricity, Thermal	ECC/ City of Keene	SCS, Eversource, Keene Housing	1-2 years
	Complete Streets Program	Incorporate the adopted City of Keene Complete Streets Design Guidelines (2015) into the City's street standards for new streets, and develop Complete Streets standards for re-construction of existing streets.	Transportation	City of Keene	SWRPC, MAST, BPPAC	3-5 years
	City Express Bus	Increase financial support for the City Express and Friendly Bus programs, and encourage HCS to expand services/routes.	Transportation	HCS	City of Keene, SWRPC	3-5 years
	Multi-Modal Transportation Center	Work with community partners to construct a multi-modal transportation center in Keene and promote inter-city transit options.	Transportation	City of Keene	SWRPC, Greyhound, HCS	5-10 years
	Advocacy for Public Transportation & Active Transportation	Advocate at the federal and state level for more funding to support public transportation and active transportation.	Transportation	ECC/City of Keene	MAST, MRCC	1-2 years
Renewable Energy	Community Power Program	Establish a Community Power Program to aggregate community load and purchase electricity from an alternate electricity supplier.	Electricity	City of Keene	Cheshire County, Other towns	1-2 years
	Virtual Power Purchase Agreement	Enter into a long-term, fixed price contract for renewable energy from a specific project (i.e. agree to a contract for differences, or CfD).	Electricity	City of Keene		3-5 years
	Pilot Battery Storage Program	Collaborate with Eversource to provide a pilot batter storage program for residents and businesses to reduce demand on the grid during peak times.	Electricity	Eversource	City of Keene	3-5 years
	Renewable Energy Loans	Partner with a local financial institution to create a loan product to finance renewable energy installations targeted at businesses or residents.	Electricity, Thermal	Financial Institution(s)	City of Keene	3-5 years
	Solar & EV Ready Guidelines	Adopt Solar & EV Ready Guidelines to encourage new buildings to be built in a way that accommodates future solar installations.	Electricity, Thermal, & Transportation	City of Keene		1-2 years

	Tool / Strategy	Description	Sector(s)	Lead	Partners	Timeframe
Fuel Switching	Heatsmart Campaign	Host a "Heatsmart" campaign to encourage the installation of renewable thermal technologies for space heating and cooling or for hot water heating through targeted local out-reach efforts and bulk discount prices.	Thermal	ECC / Community Volunteers	City of Keene, Local contractors	1-2 years
	Public EV Charging Stations	Install public EV charging stations (level 2 and fast-charge) in on-street parking areas and in public parking lots or structures.	Transportation	City of Keene	Eversource	1-2 years
	Electric Buses	Work with the Keene School District/local school bus company and HCS (City Express and Friendly Bus) to encourage switch to electric buses.	Transportation	First Student / HCS	SAU 29	5-10 years
	Advocacy for EVs and Alternative Fuel Vehicles	Advocate at the federal and state level for more funding to support EVs and other alternative fuel technologies.	Transportation	ECC/City of Keene	MAST	1-2 years
	Renewable District Heating system	Commission a study to assess the potential for a renewable district heating system in Keene to understand what areas of the city would have the appropriate demand characteristics to justify a district energy system, as well as what local renewable sources are available and at what potential and likely cost.	Electricity (co-generation), Thermal	City of Keene		3-5 years

Table 5.1 Priority implementation strategies and actions for the Keene Sustainable Energy Plan.