



## **ENERGY & CLIMATE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA**

Wednesday, February 2, 2022, 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 **2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Council Chambers**. To join the meeting online, please visit [www.zoom.us/join](http://www.zoom.us/join) or call (646) 558-8656 and enter the Meeting ID: **860 6322 7039**.\*

### **Members:**

Peter Hansel, Chair  
Councilor Raleigh Ormerod  
Diana Duffy  
Jake Pipp  
Jude Nuru  
Paul Roth  
Zach Luse

Bryan Lake  
Andrew Dey  
Clair Oursler, 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 1, 2021 Meeting
4. Student Presentation on “Zero Waste Circular Cities”
5. Energy Plan Work Group Report-outs
  - a. Weatherization
  - b. Home Energy Labeling
  - c. Electric Vehicles
  - d. Community Solar
6. Legislative Updates
7. Community Power Update
8. New Business
9. Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 2, 2022
10. 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, December 3, 2021

8:00 AM

Council Chambers,  
City Hall

**Members Present:**

Peter Hansel, Chair  
Cary Gaunt, Vice Chair (Zoom)  
Jake Pipp  
Jude Nuru (Zoom)  
Paul Roth (Zoom)  
Zach Luse  
Suzanne Butcher (Zoom)  
Councilor Bryan Lake  
Andrew Dey  
Clair Oursler, Alternate

**Staff Present:**

Mari Brunner, Planner

**Members Not Present:**

Councilor Raleigh Ormerod  
Ken Dooley

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

10 Chair Hansel called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM and roll call was conducted.  
11

12 **2) Approval of Minutes: November 3, 2021 Meeting**

13  
14 *Clair Oursler moved to accept the November 3, 2021 meeting minutes with revisions, Paul*  
15 *Roth seconded and the motion was passed by unanimous vote.*  
16

17 *Revisions as follows:*

18 *Line 48-change "he" to Councilor Lake*

19 *Line 99- change "to" to "two"*

20 *Line 100-change "Ms. Butcher" to "Ms. Gillard"*  
21

22 **3) Energy Plan Work Group Report-outs**

23  
24 **A) Weatherization-** Councilor Lake stated that Keene Energy Week went very well, the  
25 Saturday event was well attended as was the webinar. They also received feedback from some of  
26 the businesses that attended. He said they were able to get several new people to sign up for the  
27 Energy Newsletter for the city. The solar tour also went well, and he said the event was a good

28 starting point for next year. Chair Hansel asked for clarification about the Energy Newsletter and  
29 Councilor Lake replied that it is the city's newsletter that people can register for to receive  
30 updates on the city's energy projects. Ms. Brunner noted that it is not really a newsletter but a list  
31 of topics that people can sign up for to receive updates. She said there are topics for energy and  
32 sustainability and community power that were created for the energy planning process,  
33 specifically. Chair Hansel asked if they received an update about the number of companies that  
34 signed up for weatherization through NH Saves. Councilor Lake replied that he asked for an  
35 update and did not get an immediate response, but he believes about a dozen companies received  
36 the audit as far as he knows.

37  
38 **B) Home Energy Labeling-** Mr. Dey stated that the working group had a local realtor join  
39 them at their last meeting, Ms. Cassie Eaton, who provided some good information and feedback  
40 about the home energy labeling program. She thinks they are on the right track about educating  
41 realtors for a program that would apply at the time of sale. He said that she pointed out that it is  
42 the brokers who own and control the realty companies and they are the ones they should be  
43 reaching out to about this additional work for their realtors. He said that Ms. Eaton pointed out  
44 that any real estate transaction involves a lot of paperwork so if they could streamline the home  
45 energy labeling into that process that would be ideal in terms of not overburdening the workflow.  
46 Mr. Dey stated that he does not have an update about meeting with the Masiello office, but he  
47 will reach out to Commissioner Clark about that. He said Mr. Metell was successful in engaging  
48 with Mr. Greenwald about the home energy labeling initiative and Mr. Greenwald reiterated the  
49 concerns about ensuring the process is voluntary and potential liability about accuracy of  
50 information. There was additional concern on his part about how a building performs and how  
51 occupants behave, as well as how intrusive and professional the inspections will be, and Mr.  
52 Metell assured him that it is a calculation-based evaluation using information that is publicly  
53 available. Mr. Dey stated that Ms. Brunner brought up the idea of incentives and there may be a  
54 lack of resources in terms of offering those incentives, but the working group continues to have  
55 these important discussions. Chair Hansel asked if they have discussed the possibility of  
56 volunteers having their homes labeled to model the process to the public. Mr. Dey replied that is a  
57 good idea and few members of the committee have already plugged their data into the home  
58 energy labeling profile and the results were reasonably accurate, however, it did not generate a  
59 label, but it is important to share the tools that exist to share with the public. Chair Hansel stated  
60 that he would like to perform a home energy label for his own home. Mr. Dey added that if they  
61 do get the program off the ground, they would perhaps offer it to all homeowners and not just  
62 those that are looking to sell their homes. He suggested that they write up a few notes about the  
63 process to share with committee members at a future meeting.

64  
65 **C) Electric Vehicles-** Mr. Roth stated that the EV group had a short meeting on November  
66 17, and they received an update about the Monadnock Co-Op's progress on charging stations. He  
67 said the Co-op has enlisted Revision Energy and Charge Point, and their bid date was November  
68 20. He said they are working with the State of NH and the owner had to come up with 20% of the  
69 cost and 80% will come from the settlement. He stated that two car dealerships in the area have  
70 charging stations: Nissan of Keene and Noyes VW. Chair Hansel corrected that the bid date is  
71 sometime at the end of January. He said that Mr. Kondos is working closely with the Co-Op, and  
72 they are waiting for some more information from Eversource and are hopeful that the permitting  
73 process from the city does not cause any delays. Chair Hansel shared that he visited Noyes and  
74 learned that the charging station is only available for their customers. He said it did not appear to

75 be a fast charger, however, the sales representative stated that it is a fast charger. Mr. Pipp added  
76 that the Ford dealership in Swanzy also has a charger, and he is not sure if it is only open to  
77 customers but that may be something to check in on.  
78

79 **D) Community Solar-** Mr. Nuru stated that one of the goals of the working group is to  
80 compile an inventory of solar development in the city. He said they have gathered data from  
81 Eversource showing how solar energy has progressed from 2009-2020. He shared that on the  
82 residential side, from 2009-2020, there were 116 systems installed; on the commercial side for the  
83 same timeframe there were 34 systems installed. He noted that converts to 736.9 kw on the  
84 residential end, and 2,968.59 kw on the commercial side. He said it is important to note that in  
85 2016, 2017 and 2019 there were more installations than any other year on the residential side and  
86 on the commercial side, the years 2016, 2018, and 2019 also recorded the most installations. Mr.  
87 Nuru stated that in 2019 both sectors reported the highest installations and then there is a marked  
88 decline in installations in the year 2020 in both sectors and that is due to the COVID-19  
89 pandemic.

90 Mr. Nuru stated that overall, there have been more installations on the residential side although  
91 the commercial side has more capacity. For example, Filtrine's installation alone is greater than  
92 the combined installation on the residential side at approximately 792 kw. He said this implies  
93 that they may want to increase their engagement with the Greater Keene and Peterborough  
94 Chamber of Commerce to stimulate interest in solar because one commercial installation has  
95 much more capacity. Mr. Nuru stated that the group also discussed the ongoing effort to have  
96 community solar systems installed in the city, most notably they talked about the Monadnock  
97 Development Coalition which is working on the installation at the Optical Avenue property. In  
98 addition, they discussed the Ashuelot River Park location, and to actionize their discussion, they  
99 took a walk last Friday to two locations to assess their viability. They visited the potential bike  
100 path site behind Antioch University and performed an analysis of the acreage: 0.8 acres which  
101 converts to approximately 37,000 square feet and that translates to at least 200 kw system size  
102 with limitations. Mr. Nuru noted that there are two distribution power lines along the parcel and  
103 based on earlier conversations they know that Eversource's setback requirement is about 35 feet  
104 and given those limitations it may not provide sufficient space so they concluded that the bike  
105 path may not be a viable site. He stated that the group determined that the Ashuelot River Park is  
106 the most viable location in the city because it is flat, has proximity to downtown and to Keene  
107 Housing and very close to three phase-power, and therefore the location meets all the necessary  
108 requirements. He said this is one of the locations that is being discussed already and the  
109 committee will be updated about that conversation.

110 Mr. Nuru stated that the Tanglewood Residence mobile home park on the western side of Keene  
111 was also brought up and there is a possibility to build a system remotely and allocate power to  
112 that site. He said the potential game changer is the Build Back Better Bill which has passed the  
113 House and he hopes will receive endorsement from the Senate which can open possibilities for all  
114 sectors and especially low- and moderate-income communities. Chair Hansel stated that the total  
115 kilowatts installation in Keene can be converted to total kilowatt hours per year and the next step  
116 is to figure out how that relates to the total consumption in Keene. He said Eversource has the  
117 data in two versions, and he is trying to figure out which one is a better measure of total green  
118 energy percentage to use moving forward for the green power planning. Mr. Luse asked how they  
119 plan to promote more solar energy installation with the Chamber of Commerce. Chair Hansel said  
120 he can raise the issue with the Director of the Chamber of Commerce and see what he

121 recommends. He said they have regional issues series periodically and perhaps green energy can  
122 become one of those topics and they should make contact soon to see about the possibility. Ms.  
123 Butcher asked if reaching out to the Chamber would help them to reach out to nonlocal decision-  
124 makers. Chair Hansel said he is unsure, as the Chamber concentrates on their own members,  
125 however, they may have newsletters that go out to other organizations. Ms. Butcher said she has  
126 reached out to Genesis over the years and has not gotten a response. Mr. Nuru added that they  
127 have an assessment tool for engaging with nonlocal organizations that determines if an  
128 organization is registered in NH, and they have found that local organizations are easier to deal  
129 with than those that are multinational. He said regarding Hillside, he worked with the former  
130 Director of Facilities, who promised that he would introduce him to the new Director but that has  
131 not happened yet.

132 **4) Planning for ECC Annual Retreat**

133  
134 Chair Hansel stated that they are planning an ECC retreat for next year. Ms. Brunner said part of  
135 the discussion today is to determine a date and location for the annual retreat. She said they can  
136 do it at City Hall or another location. Chair Hansel stated that they are approaching the end of the  
137 second year of the energy plan process, and they have eight more years to achieve their first goal  
138 of transitioning all energy to renewables by 2030. He said he is open to suggestions from the  
139 committee. Mr. Dey suggested setting goals or milestones along the way. Chair Hansel agreed  
140 and said that could be an important topic for the retreat. Councilor Lake asked if they have a time  
141 frame in mind. Chair Hansel replied that it typically is held late winter or early spring to account  
142 for new membership. He suggested March as a potential time. He said one possibility is to take a  
143 regularly scheduled meeting and stretch it out to a few hours, or another option is to meet at  
144 another time. Chair Hansel suggested taking a poll to see when people are available. He asked for  
145 members' thoughts. Councilor Lake suggested that they focus on the short-term to get the ball  
146 rolling; he said there are goals set out in then energy plan so they may want to consider tackling  
147 those goals already set out. Chair Hansel agreed that they should review the plan. Ms. Butcher  
148 added that revisiting the plan is a good idea, but they should also prioritize the steps and actions  
149 that will have the most impact by 2030. Chair Hansel agreed with that suggestion and proposed  
150 creating new workgroups or combining work group efforts as well. Vice Chair Gaunt noted that  
151 the Sustainability Council and President's Cabinet at Keene State College (KSC) have found very  
152 simple infographics to be useful in educating the public and charting progress. She suggested  
153 considering how the information will be conveyed visually to the public, for example, they are  
154 using a visual called Climbing Mt. Monadnock at KSC. She also proposed translating progress  
155 reports to a broader audience and supports the idea of conveying overarching ideas in the form of  
156 infographics, as that helps keep progress on track.

157  
158 Chair Hansel thanked Vice Chair Gaunt for her service on the committee as this is her last  
159 committee meeting and encouraged her to remain involved in some capacity.

160  
161 Councilor Lake suggested that they should have different times available for the poll. Ms.,  
162 Brunner added that in the past they have had a potluck style retreat and asked what members  
163 think of that option. Chair Hansel said late afternoon could be pre-dinner as well. Mr. Nuru stated  
164 that to have increased participation, they could look at a retreat after work, for example, from 5-8  
165 pm to not interfere with people's work schedules.

166

167 5) **Community Power Update**

168 Ms. Brunner stated that the Community Power Coalition of NH and the Assistant City Manager  
169 in Lebanon, Clifton Below, put together a petition asking the PUC to start the rulemaking  
170 process. The Community Power Plan was submitted to the PUC in May and the bill was adopted  
171 at the end of October, so at this point the only part they are waiting on is the PUC rulemaking  
172 process to take place. The City of Keene along with some other communities have signed on to a  
173 petition to put pressure on the PUC to start the rulemaking process. Chair Hansel stated that it is  
174 frustrating that they put effort in putting the plan together and the legislature has done their work  
175 and now it is stuck in bureaucracy. He said he hopes that the petition will assist in the effort to get  
176 the process going. He asked if there are any questions from the committee. Ms. Butcher asked if  
177 there is a timeline on rulemaking. She said there is a 60-day limit on the PUC approval of the plan  
178 but is there no limit in the rulemaking process. Chair Hansel said that is what is frustrating  
179 because the plan is approved but needs rules to be implemented. Ms. Brunner stated that the  
180 rulemaking process did start and as part of that petition the Community Power Coalition  
181 submitted draft rules for the committee to consider so there are guidelines, but it is a matter of  
182 who will take that on. She said hopefully once they start it, they will not take too long. She said  
183 that the Community Power Coalition and the city of Keene' position agrees that it is under the  
184 PUC based on the way that it was put into law. Chair Hansel thanked Ms. Brunner and said they  
185 will keep an eye on that and keep up the pressure.

186  
187 6) **Legislative Updates**  
188

189 **A) PUC Order on 2021–2023 Triennial Energy Efficiency Plan and Implementation of**  
190 **Energy Efficiency Programs (Order 26,533, issued November 12, 2021)-** Ms. Brunner stated  
191 that Clean Energy NH put out a strong call to action to the public because this order defunds a lot  
192 of energy efficiency programs in NH. Chair Hansel said he believed it to be dead and now it is  
193 trying to be revived and it is a serious concern for energy efficiency programs in NH. He said he  
194 is unsure if the infrastructure plan or Build back Better would have any influence on this type of  
195 energy efficiency implementation in the future, but they should be putting pressure on the NH  
196 state government to influence the outcome. Councilor Lake stated that Clean Energy NH plans to  
197 challenge the decision in court. Ms. Butcher stated that the Solar Tour website got over 6,000  
198 views in October 2021. Med Kopczynski, Director of Economic Development, Initiatives, and  
199 Special Projects with the City of Keene, commented on his role in assisting with the staffing  
200 transition and he will be connecting with the committee from time to time. He said he has  
201 background and experience in this field and wanted to relate to the committee how difficult it will  
202 be to transition from the loss of Mr. Lamb and Ms. Kessler. He said there will be a natural  
203 training curve, rewriting the Master Plan and there are many things to do. He asked for  
204 forbearance from the committee as it will take a lot of effort from the community Development  
205 Department. Chair Hansel noted that they will have less attention from Ms. Brunner in the next  
206 few months and asked for an update on the City's proposed 21 in 21 program. Mr. Kopczynski  
207 said that Mr. Lamb and he posted signs in the community yesterday and he believes Southwest  
208 Community Services is about to go live and he believes the Mayor will announce the program as  
209 well. He stated that it is a combined program for neighborhood revitalization centered on the new  
210 Russell Park and the intention is to visit the property owners and perform energy upgrades on the  
211 buildings and to build safety and envelope improvements.  
212

213       **7)    New Business**

214

215           Chair Hansel announced that new membership is needed, and members are encouraged to make  
216           nominations.

217

218       **8)    Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 5, 2022**

219

220       **9)    Adjournment**

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

222

223           Respectfully submitted by,  
224           Ayshah Kassamali-Fox, Minute Taker

225

226           Reviewed and edited by,  
227           Mari Brunner, Senior Planner