



## ENERGY & CLIMATE COMMITTEE

### AGENDA

Wednesday, October 5, 2022, 8:00 AM

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  
Clair Oursler

Linsey Edmunds  
Councilor Bryan Lake  
Beth Campbell  
Chuck Redfern, Alternate

#### **Staff:**

Mari Brunner, Senior Planner

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes – September 7, 2022
3. Keene 21 in 21 program – Keith Thibault, Southwestern Community Services
4. Request for Sponsorship of NH Saves Button Up Workshop – Clean Energy Team
5. Energy Plan Work Group Report-outs
  - a. Weatherization / Window Dressers
  - b. Electric Vehicles
  - c. Community Solar
  - d. Renewable Energy Loans
  - e. Outreach and Education / Keene Energy Week
6. Upcoming dates of interest:
  - a. NH Saves Button Up Workshop – October 12, 2022, 6:00-7:30 pm at Keene Parks and Recreation, 312 Washington Street
  - b. Keene Energy Week – October 16-22, 2022 - [keeneenergyweek.com](http://keeneenergyweek.com)
  - c. Clean Energy Expo – October 15, 11am-2pm – Railroad Square
  - d. Window Dressers Community Build – Oct. 27-Nov. 3, 2022, 310 Marlboro Street
  - e. Chamber Regional Issues Series – Oct. 27, 2022, 8:00 am at the Cheshire County Courthouse Delegation Room
7. Community Power Update
8. New Business
9. Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 2, 2022 – 8:00 am
10. Adjourn

Link to ECC Google Drive Folder:

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

1 City of Keene  
2 New Hampshire

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5 ENERGY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE  
6 MEETING MINUTES  
7

Wednesday, September 7, 2022

8:00 AM

Council Chambers,  
City Hall

Members Present:

Peter Hansel, Chair  
Councilor Raleigh Ormerod  
Councilor Bryan Lake  
Jake Pipp  
Jude Nuru  
Paul Roth  
Diana Duffy  
Beth Campbell  
Clair Oursler, Alternate

Staff Present:

Mari Brunner, Senior Planner

Members Not Present:

Zach Luse, Vice Chair  
Linsey Edmunds

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

11 Chair Hansel called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

12  
13 **2) Approval of Minutes**

14  
15 Diana Duffy asked when outside organizations are referred to in the minutes, is it assumed that  
16 the reader knows who they are? She questioned if the minute taker should be identifying them,  
17 providing context and history on their organization or including links for the reader.

18  
19 Ms. Duffy also noted on Page 3, line 76, the consultant stated something “was horribly high”, but  
20 those exact words were not put into quotation. She expressed concern about an outside person  
21 assuming that is the opinion of the group rather than the opinion of the speaker and wondered the  
22 group’s stance regarding putting statements like that into quotes.

23  
24 Chair Hansel responded that minute taker might not even know consultant’s relationship/  
25 background, etc. Mari Brunner added that as the staff liaison, she can go in and edit to provide  
26 context. Chair Hansel added that his interpretation of the minutes was that the whole paragraph  
27 was from the consultant’s presentation (Mr. Hayden’s) and added that the minute takers usually

28 identify when someone new is speaking allowing for attribution of the statement to the respective  
29 speaker.

30

31 Chair Hansel asked for any further comments on the minutes. With no further comments or  
32 approved amendments, a motion to approve was put forth by Paul Roth and seconded by Jake  
33 Pipp. A Roll call vote was conducted for unanimous approval.

34

35 **Energy Plan Work Group Report-outs**

36

37 **A) Weatherization**

38 Jake Pipp provided an update for the Window Dressers program. He said they have about 8  
39 people from Bensonwood, Habitat for Humanity, this committee and others in the community  
40 who are going to go around to the homes that have signed up to measure. When the volunteers  
41 do the measuring, they will take payment that day to lock people in. The very last day for  
42 measuring and getting payments in is October 17th, but they are hoping to have the measuring  
43 done well in advance. They have numerous people signed up and are now reaching out those  
44 individuals to ensure that are actually appropriate for the inserts. The days of the build are  
45 planned for October 27th-November 3rd. Mr. Pipp added that they received a generous donation  
46 from Keene Rotary Club to help defer the costs of the inserts and any associated expenses. The  
47 location has been locked down at 310 Marlboro Street and the insurance paper work has been  
48 completed.

49

50 Councilor Raleigh Ormerod asked if the group was still accepting new people. Mr. Pipp clarified  
51 that people interested in paid inserts will start to be placed on a waiting list. He added they have  
52 one person signed up for thirty plus inserts and they have to investigate further to determine if  
53 that is a rental with three individual homes, are all in one home and what the specifics are to  
54 determine if all those windows are suitable for inserts. Depending on what they determine, that  
55 might free up quite a bit of space and allow them to produce more inserts and take on a few  
56 additional people.

57

58 The group is still looking for people who are eligible for the free or reduced cost inserts and they  
59 are trying to work with Southwestern Community Services to determine who might qualify and  
60 get the information out to those individuals.

61

62 Chair Peter Hansel asked how many total they were looking to build. Mr. Pipp responded that the  
63 Window Dressers program recommends not to go over two hundred inserts for first time builds,  
64 and for experienced builds they recommend not going over two hundred and fifty.

65

66 Chair Hansel asked if there was a requirement that a certain percentage of customers be from  
67 middle to low income. Mr. Pipp said there is not a requirement, but they do allocate twenty  
68 percent to people who qualify as low income, which is across the entire organization for all of  
69 their builds held across the region. Many of those other locations are rather well off so many  
70 customers do not qualify for free or reduced cost and the program has told them they are willing

71 to allow Keene to go up to fifty percent free or reduced cost inserts based on other communities  
72 not needing or using their allocated twenty percent. They are hoping to reach out and find people  
73 to take and use those.

74

75 Chair Hansel asked what would be the average someone would pay for inserts if they did not  
76 qualify for reduced cost or free inserts. Mr. Pipp said the average medium sized window is about  
77 forty dollars. The software program used allows them to enter the exact measurements and  
78 obtain an exact cost. There are frame options that, depending on preference, might add additional  
79 cost. The white pre-painted option, for example, has an additional cost of roughly eight dollars.

80

#### 81 **B) Electric Vehicles**

82 Councilor Bryan Lake provided an update on the electric vehicles. The group discussed the  
83 option of looking to see if they could install solar canopies over the charging locations for the  
84 electric vehicles. Another topic discussed were the guidelines that Ms. Diana Duffy helped draft  
85 and provided a starting point. Mr. Roth added that they also talked about streetscape, which is  
86 the project that the City has to enhance Main Street. They also addressed the need to get into the  
87 five-year infrastructure plan that they City has developed. They discussed dealerships and  
88 potential for that but did not have further information. Mari Brunner added that the infrastructure  
89 project is to replace the entire underground infrastructure, which is in poor condition. Since the  
90 roads will be torn up, it provided the City with opportunity to address how it is to be put back  
91 and the City has hired a consulting firm, Stantec, to assist with possible design solutions.

92 Chair Hansel asked if there were any other questions for the workgroup. Mr. Clair Oursler asked  
93 if Home Health, Hospice and Community Services (HCS) had been approached about changing  
94 to electric busses. Chair Hansel responded that he has a bit of input from a different group that he  
95 is involved in that is studying mini-commuting. Mini-commuting involves people ordering a van  
96 to take them around wherever they need to go. In one of the meetings, they brought up that they  
97 should consider using electric vehicles at least for that option. He did not remember whether it  
98 was pointed out by HCS if they had or were looking into electric vehicles. He added that it is  
99 something to monitor especially given the new money possibly coming down from the federal  
100 government.

101

102 Councilor Ormerod asked Ms. Brunner if she had any prospective on a meeting that he and  
103 Councilor Lake were asked to attend, but never took place. Councilor Ormerod clarified that it  
104 had been taken off his calendar. Ms. Brunner said they were expecting him at the meeting so she  
105 is assuming that it was a communication mistake. She offered to reach out and try to get that set-  
106 up again.

107

108 Chair Hansel asked if there were any further questions. With no further questions, the discussion  
109 moved onto community solar.

110

#### 111 **C) Community Solar**

112 Jude Nuru reported that the work group met last month and discussed the need to look at  
113 installing solar on city parking lots. Councilor Lake had previously expressed interest in

114 participating in the group and also attended. Mr. Nuru did an investigation and discovered that  
115 the cost to install on a parking lot was twice that of any other regular installation.

116  
117 They have identified a number of parking lots with potential for solar and will likely engage a  
118 developer for a quotes. Given the cost, the work-group thought that it would make the most sense  
119 to revisit that discussion in the face of incentives announced as part of the inflation reduction act  
120 to allow municipalities to undertake renewable energy programs and be eligible for some rebate.  
121 They have a number of sites in Keene (Rose lane, Ashuelot Green Space, 560 Lower Main St)  
122 that they will be assessing in the short term and in anticipation of SB 270 to develop a system  
123 and be ready for installation.

124  
125 Mr. Nuru said he was supposed to be in Concord for a hearing today on the rule making for SB  
126 270, but was not able to attend due to some childcare issues. His colleagues attended in his place.  
127 The act has already been passed, but they are trying to form the rules and work towards  
128 determining the implementation process.

129  
130 The workgroup also discussed low and moderate income (LMI) projects in the area of Keene  
131 Housing, Timberlane, and housing units that they felt could be potential for community solar.  
132 Community solar is typically driven by incentives and legislation. The group is happy to see  
133 some transformation in that landscape and are confident that the community solar is something  
134 they can start to work on. Hopefully, allowing them to be ready for when the rule making for  
135 implementation of SB270 has been completed and released.

136  
137 Councilor Ormerod asked for clarification regarding building the solar parking arrays and  
138 questioned whether those arrays would tie into community power. Chair Hansel added that he  
139 did not believe it would affect our standing with community power and the contract itself, but  
140 would need to get additional clarification. Ms. Brunner added that her understanding was that  
141 renewable energy can be incorporated locally into a renewable energy program and the City  
142 would just need to include that in the contract with the energy supplier.

143  
144 Ms. Duffy noted that the public stakeholder session #1 had a significant number of topics to be  
145 discussed. She asked Mr. Nuru which specific topic he was interested in. He responded that he  
146 was interested in all of them as they all matter, but he has particular interest in the ones that  
147 relate to the customer impact.

148  
149 **D) Renewable Energy Loans**

150 Chair Hansel moved on to the update for the renewable energy loans work group. He noted there  
151 has been a little bit of activity in that, he recently met with the new Monadnock Economic  
152 Development Corporation (MEDC) Director, Cody Morrison. They spoke of various subjects,  
153 but in particular, a revolving loan fund they are hoping to put together. This loan fund would  
154 offer loans to entities that are looking at offering renewable energy services.

155

156 They hope to see some applications before the end of the year and hope to start to process them  
157 in early 2023. Chair Hansel also had a meeting with the Peterborough energy group, who are also  
158 investigating renewable energy loans. It was a productive conversation and they discussed  
159 various models, including one in Brooklyn area, where outside investors provide revolving loans  
160 for individual's homeowners to obtain energy efficiency products for their homes.

161  
162 They also discussed the concept of a green bank to try to fund these types of enterprises. After  
163 those conversations, Chair Hansel renewed his conversations with local companies, Savings  
164 Bank of Walpole (SBW) and Mascoma Savings Bank and expressed his interest in moving  
165 forward. He questioned the organizations on whether their level of interest would increase if they  
166 could come up with some sort of loan protection for their loans. Both companies expressed  
167 interest and are presently doing their own further research.

168  
169 Mr. Ormerod asked if the city would need to come up with funding or serve as guarantors. Chair  
170 Hansel explained that other communities have taken the money from different places (municipal  
171 funds, local sources of funding, etc.). The overarching idea is that the City or County would set  
172 aside some money for people who would not normally qualify.

173  
174 **E) Outreach and Education/Keene Energy Week**

175 Mr. Pipp offered to speak, but noted that Mr. Zach Luse will likely have a more detailed report  
176 out next month. Mr. Pipp provided a quick update that Keene Energy week is coming up in  
177 October. The Button-Up workshop is being offered through Keene Energy team either during  
178 that week or just before. They do not have the exact dates just yet. The energy audit initiatives  
179 and the window dressers initiative will also be involved in the Keene Energy week. Mr. Pipp  
180 mentioned that Zach Luse is also looking for other organizations to table and present. One of the  
181 presenting groups is Arrow Barrier, which is an organization Mr. Luse used to plug holes in the  
182 building where his business is located on Court St.

183  
184 Ms. Brunner said last year the committee had asked the Mayor to do a proclamation for energy  
185 month. If the committee wishes to do that again this year, it would require getting a draft to the  
186 Mayor before the first city council meeting. Chair Hansel suggested the outreach group discuss  
187 that at their next meeting.

188  
189 Ms. Duffy noted that the website agenda currently available is not updated and not entirely  
190 conclusive, but imagines that it will be updated shortly.

191  
192

193 **3) Community Power Update**

194 Chair Hansel asked Ms. Brunner to report. The Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative  
195 Rules, often referred to by members as JLCAR, was supposed to meet in August to discuss the  
196 rules. Ms. Brunner said her understanding was that it got pushed off. She is not entirely sure how  
197 much impact that will have given the PUC rules were adopted. The City did submit their plan

198 about a month ago to the PUC and they are about halfway through the 60-day timeline for the  
199 PUC to approve or disapprove the plan.

200

201 **4) Discussion: Home Energy Labeling Pilot Program**

202 Chair Hansel stated that this item was brought forward by Mike Metell, who is one of the  
203 members of the Keene Home Energy Labeling committee. Mr. Metell said that the purpose of his  
204 presentation today is to ask the Energy & Climate Committee (ECC) to put support into labelling  
205 again. There has been some behind-the-scenes effort that has been happening and might make it  
206 appropriate again.

207 Mr. Metell noted that part of the reason the group was placed on hold was due to three of the  
208 Energy and Climate Committee members who were labeling work group members resigning  
209 from the Committee. As a result, they lost the critical mass necessary to have a group function.  
210 The group was placed on hold and some of the work was folded into the Weatherization Work  
211 Group.

212 Prior to being put on hold, the work group was working on several items. They were in the  
213 process of putting a program and a plan together. This included benchmarking various industry  
214 groups, such as NEEP, NHSaves and Montpelier VHEP. In that process, they completed a trial  
215 use of the Vermont Energy model to determine if it would work in Keene. The group found that  
216 it did a nice job and could potentially work for Keene.

217 The goals were developed by the City Council and passed down as directives for the group. They  
218 discussed strategies to approach realtors as well as identified the top five broker/owners they  
219 wishes to approach. They determined the best option to get their concurrence was to have a  
220 fundraiser.

221 Of the five brokers mentioned, three were contacted and the conversations were starting to elicit  
222 support.

223 The group was also able to identify liability risks and form some questions and answers that  
224 would help address them. The model, if used, would make these liabilities much less potent.

225 Lastly, the group identified potential tools in moving the information forward to the public.  
226 Tools discussed included radio, energy fairs and flyers.

227 Ms. Brunner had been contacted by the Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership (NEEP) and  
228 asked if any members were interested in participating in their Cohort group. Mr. Metell  
229 expressed interest and has been participating in this group for about four to five months since the  
230 retreat.

231 During the course of his participation in the Cohort, he learned that City Council's development  
232 of the goals made it a bit easier as the work group did not have to create them from scratch. Most  
233 of the other participants in the Cohort require or run mandatory programs, which are harder to  
234 implement, but often allow for better tracking.



235 In conversations with his peers in the Cohort group, many promoted the realtor/owner/broker  
236 strategy he previously mentioned as a successful model. Mr. Metell added that New Hampshire  
237 is the only New England state that does not fund The New England Partnership, which creates a  
238 challenge if we want to borrow an aspect of their programming.

239 He then presented a short video from the Vermont Labelling program. Mr. Metell narrated the  
240 video and process due to technical issues. The benefit of the program model is that it is easy to  
241 use and useful in terms of the information gathered as well as the types of suggested  
242 improvements/products.

243 Chair Hansel reminded everyone that this home labelling is one of the high-priority strategies  
244 outlined in the Sustainable Energy Plan. The company that makes the labelling software (Clearly  
245 Energy) usually works directly with the state through NEEP. In this case, the City would be  
246 stepping out from the State and independently pursuing the software. Chair Hansel mentioned that  
247 Mr. Metell has reached out to the company as to what the cost would be for implementation.  
248 They envision that it would start as a pilot program to get an idea of what is involved, how to use  
249 it going forward and allowing opportunity to interpret how the realtors receive this process.

250 Mr. Metell pointed out that they do not have time limits, but there are binders. They made the  
251 initial contacts and some of the realtors talked to others, spreading word and interest. The  
252 brokers expressed interest and a few requested a presentation. The status of the workgroup  
253 resulted in Mr. Metell having to reject the request. He is concerned that continual rejection may  
254 result in a lack of interest on behalf of the realtor/broker.

255 Diana Duffy thanked him for his presentation. She had multiple questions and was concerned  
256 about time. Chair Hansel noted that there was not enough time remaining to address questions in  
257 detail. He suggested Mr. Metell get back to them once he hears on the quote and the group can  
258 go from there. Mr. Metell said he does not expect a response until October.

259

260 **5) Committee Membership**

261 Chair Hansel asked Ms. Brunner what the status was for Clair's request to become a full  
262 member. At the last city council meeting, she believed Clair was moved to a regular member and  
263 Chuck Redfern was nominated as an alternate. Chair Hansel noted that committee still did have  
264 openings and if anyone knew of interested individuals to mention it to him.

265

266 **6) Upcoming Dates of Interest**

267

268 **A) Radically Rural- September 21-22, 2022**

269 **B) Keene Energy Week- October 16-22, 2022**

270 **C) Window Dressers Community Build- October 27-November 3, 2022**

271 **D) Chamber Regional Issues Series- October 27, 2022, 8:00am, Cheshire County  
272 Courthouse Delegation Room**

273 **E) Drive electric event at Franklin Piece University- Saturday, September 24  
274 from 12-4pm.**

275



276 7) **New Business**

277

278 8) **Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 5, 2022- 8:00am**

279

280 9) **Adjournment**

281

282 There being no further business, Chair Hansel adjourned the meeting at 9:16 AM.

283

284 Respectfully submitted by,

285 Amanda Trask, Minute Taker

286

287 Reviewed and edited by,

288 Mari Brunner, Senior Planner

# Improve the energy efficiency of your home.

## FREE Home Energy Workshop



**NHsaves** Button Up Workshop is a 1½ hour presentation about improving the energy efficiency of your home. It covers energy saving tips and **NHSaves** energy efficiency programs. Learn about saving electricity, insulation and air sealing, energy audit and weatherization programs, rebates on electric and gas appliances, and other incentives from NH's energy utilities. New Hampshire residents that want to use energy wisely and save money will find the information very useful.

WHEN NEW HAMPSHIRE SAVES,



### PRESENTATION:

Join us for a **NHsaves** Button Up Workshop

### WHEN:

Wednesday, October 12, 2022 at 6:30 P.M.

Doors open at 6:00 P.M.

### WHERE:

Keene Parks and Recreation Center  
312 Washington Street  
Keene, New Hampshire

### PRESENTER:

Andy Duncan, *Energy Trainer*

### QUESTIONS:

Email: [carolynj1947@gmail.com](mailto:carolynj1947@gmail.com)

### SPONSORED BY:

NHSaves: [www.nhsaves.com](http://www.nhsaves.com)

### LOCAL PARTNERS:

City of Keene  
Energy and Climate Committee  
Keene Clean Energy Team  
Monadnock Sustainability Hub

Visit [https://nhsaves.com/learn/?resource\\_type=event](https://nhsaves.com/learn/?resource_type=event) for dates and locations of all Button Ups.

Workshops are organized by **Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative**, (PAREI)  
[www.PlymouthEnergy.org](http://www.PlymouthEnergy.org) • 603-536-5030

The workshops are FREE thanks to funding provided by

